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Don't even think of the alternative to good manners on the Skytrain

WITH the new express train linking Suvarnabhumi airport to central Bangkok due to open soon, it's time to celebrate what is after all a major achievement. It's probably also a good time to launch a campaign to promote considerate travel. Just think of the number of newly arrived airline passengers who will use this new service and then join the BTS Skytrain system. Many will be carrying large suitcases or wearing bulky rucksacks on their backs.

The latter can be especially annoying when their owners innocently turn around on crowded trains. Hopefully, they will be required to take off their rucksacks and place them at their feet. Many major department stores like Harrod's in London employ security guards to tell rucksack carriers to carry their load by hand to prevent angry confrontations with shoppers they would otherwise have banged into.

A number of other issues should be covered in this campaign of good behaviour, such as passengers covering their nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing, and moving down inside the carriage to make way for other travelers. A similar campaign abroad uses as its catchphrase: 'A little thought from each of us, a big difference for everyone.' It's apparently working very well.

Currency woes of our hotels

THE weakness of the British pound - down 23% against the Euro and even more against the Thai baht - plus the ongoing recession are causing huge numbers of Brits to reconsider their holiday plans. New figures show, for example, that the number of Brits vacationing in Spain is down by as much as 23.4% compared to 2008 because of the strength of the Euro.

Statistics for Thailand are not yet available, but reliable local sources are saying that the British inbound market has been seriously affected. For better value, Brits (amongst many other nationalities) are now looking for cheaper holidays in countries such as Egypt, Turkey and Vietnam.

What can Thailand do? For a start, abandon the long-held philosophy amongst top hotels that room rates should not come down. This is based on the erroneous belief that once the market knows hoteliers have reduced their rates, it will be difficult if not impossible for their marketing managers to drag them up again once the economic situation improves. By maintaining prices, those top hotels are also missing out because visitors are now discovering a generation of good quality boutiques hotels and serviced apartments who are prepared to offer more realistic (read lower) rates.

Front cover image courtesy of Vimalachatra 84th Anniversary Fund. See feature on page 32.

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MBK Amazing Muay Thai

Every Wednesday at the MBK Center

LEARN more about Muay Thai every Wednesday evening at the MBK Center, 6pm – 8.30pm. Instructors will teach you everything there is to know about the ancient Thai sport through a series of exhibitions, the wai khru ceremony, and real fights from many of the city's best boxing gyms.

MBK Center, Avenue Zone, Ground Floor, BTS National Stadium. For more information please Tel: 02 620 9000

Asian Martial Arts Games 2009

April 25 - 3 May at

MARTIAL arts fans are in for a treat this month as the first Asian Martial Arts Games will be held in sports stadiums throughout Bangkok and Suphan Buri Province from April 25 – May 3.

Featured games include Karatedo, Kickboxing, Wushu, Muay Thai, Kungfu, Kurash, Jujitsu, Beltwrestling, Pencat Silat and Kaliripattu.

Over 2,500 competitors from 45 countries will participate in the games. The full competition schedule is posted on www.tourismthailand.org

Reflection



Until May 9 at Gossip Gallery – Silom Galleria

NARET Yamaharn's latest contemporary works will be available for viewing at Gossip Gallery until May 9. As the title suggests, the collection's main inspiration originates from the artist's visions derived from the shadows his objects cast on a surface. Depending on the brightness of the illuminating light, the images can be vivid with color, or dull and bland. Change is a given, but the reflections never go away.

The exhibition will be open for viewing Monday - Saturday from 10am - 7pm (Sunday viewings are by appointment only).

Gossip Gallery, The Silom Galleria, 3rd Floor; #331, 919/1 Silom Road, opposite Central Department Store Bangrak, Tel: Khun Ticha Chotchung at (02) 237 5568 and (085) 166 5678 or Khun Chonticha Choochart at (081) 440 3896 gossipgallerybkk.com

Edition Bangkok

April 24 and 30 at Zen Rooftop, CentralWorld



TIËSTO

ASIA'S first ever two night festival of cutting edge electronic music will be held on April 24 and April 30 at the sophisticated Zen Rooftop at CentralWorld.

The lineup will feature superstar DJs Tiësto, Ferry Corsten, and Markus Schultz alongside notable names such as Sandy Rivera, Bodyrox, and other up-and-coming Asian talents.

Tiësto is the mastermind behind the classic trance track, "Traffic," the popular album "Ele-



St George's Ball 2009

April 25 at JW Marriott Bangkok

THE St George's Ball is always a wonderful event. Held on April 25 at JW Marriott Bangkok, the evening features a five course gourmet meal with an English twist, fine wines and free flow beer, and live Proms music from the Royal Thai Army Band.

Getting everyone on their feet and dancing will be the Sweet Inspiration Band, and they'll be followed by DJ Paul Jackson spinning all your favourite hits. The all night party ends with a traditional English breakfast.

Tickets are priced at Baht 3,000 with proceeds going toward Thai charities. The evening begins with a cocktail reception at 7pm.

Book your place now with Ann Hellon at stgball@gmail.com or 08 1490 1746

Festival 2009



ments of Life," and the only man voted as the world's number 1 DJ eight times in a row. He will be in control of the decks on April 24.

Markus Schultz, currently ranked number 8 in the world's best DJ list, will play trance alongside world number 6 Ferry Corsten and the celebrated urban electronic spin masters Sandy Riviera and Bodyrox on April 30.

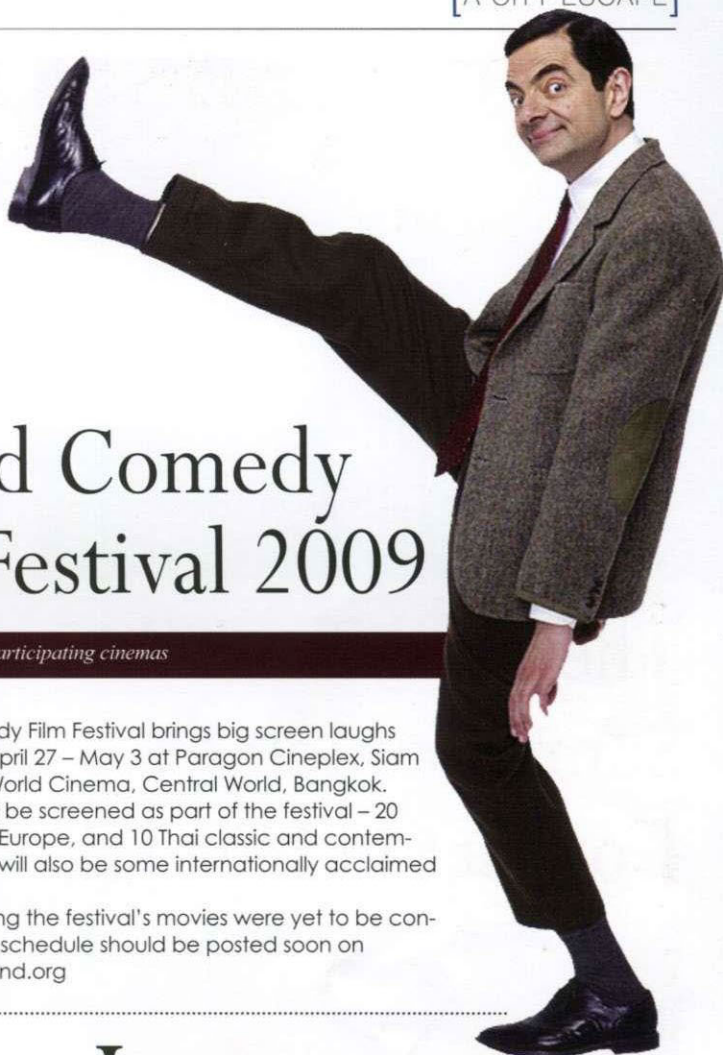
Tickets are priced at Regular Baht 1,490 (1 night), Baht 1,990 (2 nights), VIP Baht 2,990 (1 night), Baht 4,990 (2 nights). Tickets are available for purchase at Zen CentralWorld or for home delivery service visit www.opworldwide.com/editionbangkok

World Comedy Film Festival 2009

April 27 – May 3 at participating cinemas

THE World Comedy Film Festival brings big screen laughs to Bangkok from April 27 – May 3 at Paragon Cineplex, Siam Paragon, and SF World Cinema, Central World, Bangkok. Around 60 films will be screened as part of the festival – 20 from Asia, 20 from Europe, and 10 Thai classic and contemporary films. There will also be some internationally acclaimed short movies.

At time of writing the festival's movies were yet to be confirmed, but the full schedule should be posted soon on www.tourismthailand.org



River Jazz featuring Lisa Ono

April 25 at Grand Ballroom, Shangri-La Hotel



POPULAR Japanese bossa nova singer Lisa Ono will perform at the Grand Ballroom of Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok on the evening of April 25.

Born in São Paulo, Brazil in 1962, Lisa Ono moved with her family to Tokyo at the age of 10. Lisa's dad opened a venue called Saci-Pererê, a Brazilian restaurant where Lisa started performing mainly bossa nova and samba. As well as singing, Lisa Ono is a talented guitar player and songwriter. Her first album, Catupiry, was released in 1989. She now has 22 albums to her name.

Tickets are priced at 6,000 / 4,500 / 3,500 and 2,500 Baht and are available at all Thaiticketmajor outlets. Alternatively Tel: 02 262 3456 or visit www.thaiticketmajor.com. Show starts at 8pm.

Shangri-La Hotel Bangkok, 89 Soi Wat Suan Phu, New Road, Bangkok 10500, Tel: 02 236 7777 www.shangri-la.com



Unique Gift for HRH Princess Ubolratana

Victor Sukseeree, General Manager of Dusit Thani Hua Hin, proudly presented Her Royal Highness Princess Ubolratana Rajakanya Siriwattana Pannawade with a stacked-glass ice naga on behalf of the hotel and Dusit International. Her Royal Highness is pictured accepting a framed picture of the gift at the ITB "Internationale Tourismus Borse" in Berlin Germany.

The Seed Show#42 Summer Melody Concert in Hua Hin



Thiraphat Sajakul, Station Director of SEED 97.5 FM and DJs recently stayed for a quick rejuvenate trip at Franjipani Resort Hua Hin and celebrated Hua Hin's 100-year Anniversary by organising The Seed Show#42 Summer Melody Concert at Phon King Pet public park. SEED 97.5 FM team were welcomed by resort owner Pramote Thanyakulsaja and the management team.

Silpakorn Summer Concert at Dusit Thani Hua Hin



Silpakorn University Orchestra will be performing at the Dusit Thani Hua Hin. The young performers will play a series of concerts in the hotel lobby.

16th -17th April 2009

Chamber Music Series by top students from Silpakorn Summer School including string quartet, piano and voice, brass quintet, woodwind quintet and more.

18th April 2009

Orchestral Concert, conducted by Darrell Ang Orchestra members, conducted by Leo Phillips, piano solo from the winner of the concerto competition in Summer School.

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Sukhumvit Rd., Klongtan-Nua, Wattana, BKK 10110

Honda Summer Fest Hua Hin 2

■ LAST year's Honda Summer Fest was a huge success, with around 120,000 people turning up to enjoy the free beach concert. This year's event looks set to be even better, and once again brings Thailand's top acts together for another full day of music on Hua Hin's main beach.

Held on May 2 from noon – 2am, visitors will be able to catch performances by T-Bone, Groove Riders, Lipta, Madagascar, Scrubb, Zom Amara, Teddy Ska Band, and many more.

Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan. For more information see www.thaiticket-major.com

Songkran 10K Road Race/5K Fun Run



■ THE Hua Hin Hash House Harriers hosts a Thai New Year 10Km road race and 5Km fun run on Monday April 13.

April may be hot and dry but this fun event promises to be anything but - all those not on the run will be on hand with hoses to soak the runners with cold water as they pass by.

More information is posted on www.huahin-hhh.com. If you can't make this run you can always prepare for the Summer Solstice Run which will hit the road on Sunday June 21.

For more information contact Donald at Email donaltetley@yahoo.com or Tel: 0850887181



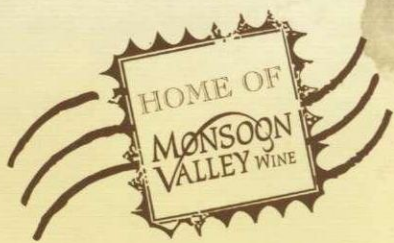
YWCA Bazaar 2008 Commitee Visits Sofitel

■ The YWCA Bazaar 2008 Committee led by its Chairperson, Gill Barrington recently visited the Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas, Hua Hin for a delicious luncheon at its beachfront Palm Seafood Pavilion. Gill Barrington, who is also the wife of the New Zealand Ambassador, was with a group of diplomatic wives and board members of YWCA Bangkok Group. They were warmly welcomed by the hotel's Resident Manager, Christian Schlegel.



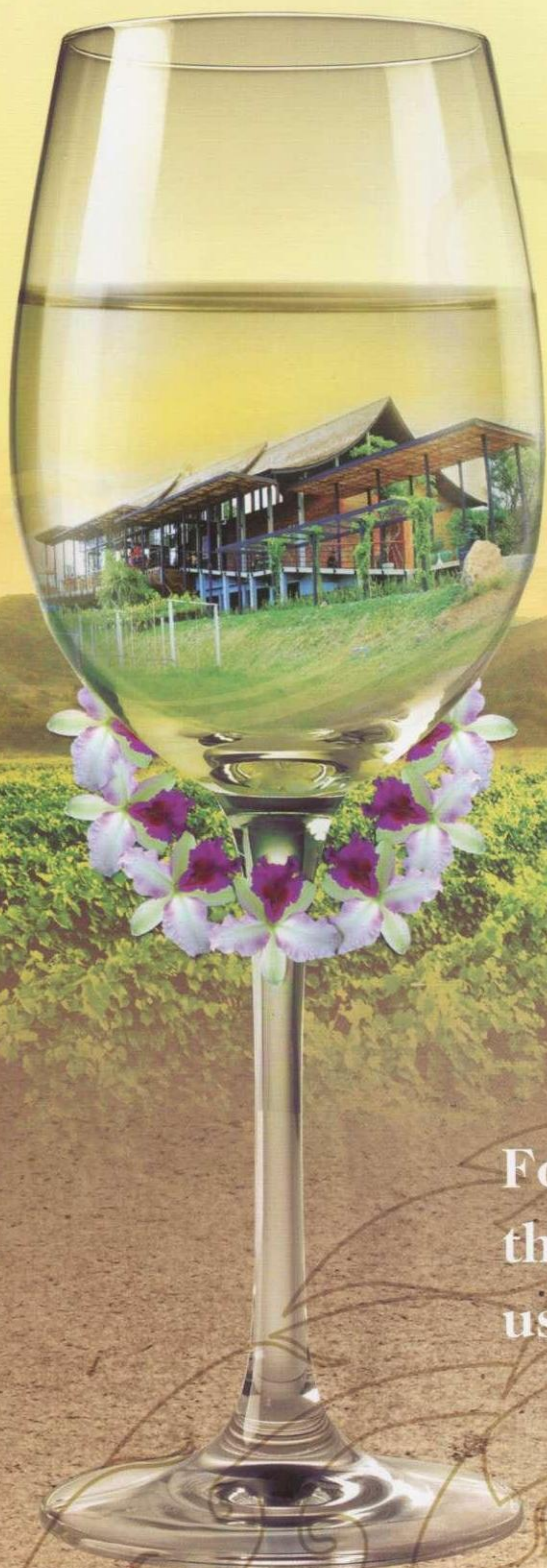
Hua Hin Marriott Resort & Spa Welcome TAT Media Trip from Los Angeles

■ Dylan Counsel (2nd row, 3rd from left), Director of Food & Beverage and Tannisha Pramualratana (1st row, 5th from left), Public Relations Manager recently welcomed and hosted a dinner for TAT Media FAM group from Los Angeles on the occasion of their inspection of Hua Hin Marriott Resort & Spa.



Celebrate Songkran

*Thai New Year, with Thai wine
at Hua Hin Hills Vineyard*



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the Sala at 081 701 8874 or email
us at info@huahinhillsvineyard.com



HUA HIN HILLS
VINEYARD



Hua Hin Fisherman's Market at Talay Thai, Hyatt Regency

Hyatt Regency Hua Hin drops anchor at Talay Thai Restaurant every Saturday evening between 6.00pm and 10.30pm. Discover the mini Hua Hin fisherman's market and select the catch of the day for the chef to cook in your favourite style. Also, spice up your life and enjoy the fragrances of fresh herbs at authentic Thai soup and spicy salad buffet, noodles and fried rice that you can enjoy at all you can eat. Price: 900 baht ++ per person. Children below 6 dine free when accompanied by parents.

For reservations and further information, please contact Hyatt Regency Hua Hin at Hotline Tel: 0 2254 6200 or 0 3252 1234 and E-mail: huahin.regency@hyatt.com



Cherry Blossom Promotion

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is an annual event that celebrates the arrival of spring in Washington DC. The trees were given to the city by the Major of Tokyo in 1912 as a mark of friendship between the people of United States and Japan. Until the end of April 2009, Hagi Japanese Restaurant of the Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas, Hua Hin will celebrate the event with a special Cherry Blossom dinner menu.

For more information and reservation please contact 0 3251 2021-38 or E-mail: fboffice@sofitel.co.th



Khantok Dinner at Talay Restaurant, Hyatt Regency Hua Hin

Talay Thai Restaurant invites you to experience a touch of northern-style dining at a khantok dinner, served with a twist of Hua Hin charm every Monday from 7 pm to 11 pm. The Thai set dinner includes famous northern dishes as sour red snapper fillet with yellow curry and turmeric and Chiang Mai sausage with fresh vegetables, all served on a khantok – a low table – while you relax on cushions and enjoy dinner on the lawn overlooking the Gulf of Thailand.

Price: 1,100 baht ++ per person for adult and 550 baht ++ for child 6 - 12 years old. Children under 6 years old dine free when accompanied by parent.

For reservations and further information, please contact Hyatt Regency Hua Hin at Hotline Tel: 0 2254 6200 or 0 3252 1234 and email: huahin.regency@hyatt.com

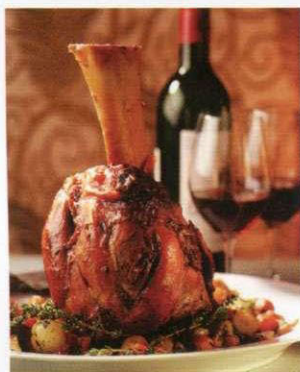
Brandy Cocktails at Sundara Lounge, Sheraton Hua Hin Resort & Spa



Throughout April, Sundara Lounge at Sheraton Hua Hin Resort & Spa invites you to experience the collection of brandy cocktails created by talented bartenders. Mingle with your friends and family and enjoy a glass of Sombrero, Brandy Sour, Brandy Alexander, Brandy Buck, Brandy Fix or any of favorite drinks while enjoying the magnificent view of the lagoon-style pool. A live band will add more pleasure to the evening from 7.00 pm onwards (except Monday).

Sundara Lounge is located in the lobby area. The lounge also offers light snacks, refreshing cocktails and soothing

sounds and opens daily from 12.00 pm to 11.00 am. Please call (0) 3270 8 155 or e-mail: fb.huahin@sheraton.com for further information and reservations.



Royal Dutch Veal Promotion

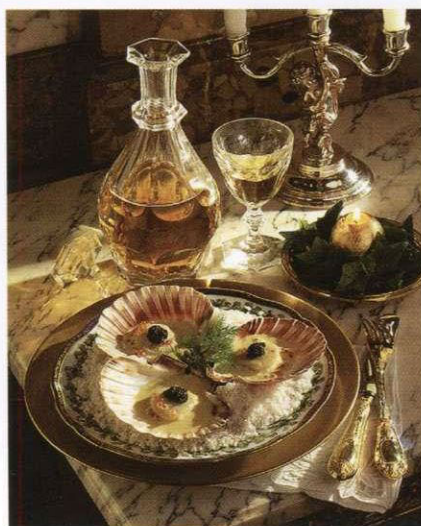
After more than a decade's absence from the Thai market, the world's highest quality milk-fed veal from the Netherlands returns! Throughout April 2009, diners can enjoy a special menu dedicated to tender, healthy and delicious Royal Dutch Veal at the Railway Restaurant of the Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas, Hua Hin

For more information and reservation please contact 0 3251 2021-38 or E-mail: fboffice@sofitel.co.th

Coast - Fresh Seafood from Brittany & Normandy at Sofitel

The regional cuisine of Brittany and Normandy is renowned for its fabulous seafood dishes. From 4th until 31st May, 2009, Palm Seafood Pavilion of the Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas, Hua Hin will serve an enticing a la carte menu featuring fresh premium quality fish and seafood imported from the waters of northwest France.

For more information and reservation please contact 0 3251 2021-38 or E-mail: fboffice@sofitel.co.th



Parfum de Mimosa by Sofitel

Revisit stylish classic cocktails this summer at the Elephant Bar of the Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas, Hua Hin, from 10 a.m. until 1 a.m.

Until the end of April 2009, indulge yourself with a delicious Champagne cocktail enlivened with a frosty orange and Grand Marnier granite and sprinkled with orange blossom water. The original Mimosa cocktail was first mixed at the Paris Ritz in 1925. The Parfum de Mimosa adds a refreshingly contemporary twist to the classic cocktail.

For more information or reservation please contact 0 3251 2021-38 or E-mail: fboffice@sofitel.co.th

Enjoy School Holidays at Hyatt Regency Hua Hin



■ Bring your children for a school holiday break and enjoy a variety of recreational activities at Hyatt Regency Hua Hin from now until May 15, 2009 starting from 6,500 baht ++ per room per night.

The offer includes one night accommodation in our luxurious Hyatt guestroom with daily international buffet breakfast for

two adults and one child (below 4 years old), welcome drink upon arrival and participation in a variety of recreational activities such as carp feeding, the basics of Thai boxing, beach volleyball, water aerobics, free welcome gift for children (1 set per room), a 50% discount on buffet breakfast for children from 4 – 12 years old.

Children can enjoy our Camp Hyatt while parents enjoy a true relaxation at the resort. Camp Hyatt is a programme featuring cultural and educational activities for children from four – 12 years old, supervised by our friendly staff. A plenty of activities and games are available such as coconut bowling, T-shirt painting, gel candle making, batik painting and many more. Prices are 650 baht ++ per child for a half-day programme, and 950 baht ++ per child for a full day programme. A children's menu for lunch, and refreshments are also included.

Rates are subject to 17.7% tax and service charge. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotions, prior reservation is required and subject to space availability.

For reservations and further information, please contact Hyatt Regency Hua Hin at Hotline Tel: 0 2254 6200 or 0 3252 1234 and email: reservations.hrhuahin@hyatt.com, www.huahin.regency.hyatt.com

Experience the Luxury of the Barai

■ The Barai, an award-winning destination spa featuring eight exclusive residential spa suites and 18 exotic treatment rooms, is located on more than 4.5 acres of serene beachfront land adjacent to Hyatt Regency Hua Hin.

The Barai invites you to experience a new level of luxury at the residential spa starting from 15,500 baht ++ per night for the Barai Balcony Suite and 17,500 baht ++ per night for the Barai Pool Suite from April 1 until June 31, 2009.

The offer includes one night accommodation in a residential spa suite, healthy breakfast at McFarland House, or served in the comfort of your suite, all-day hot and cold herbal tea,



and evening cocktails at McFarland, choice of 60-minute Thai foot reflexology, traditional Thai massage, Swedish massage, aromatherapy massage or muscle relief massage for two people per night, an in-suite aromatherapy milk bath and an in-suite aroma steam

prepared by your own Suite Butler.

Rates are subject to 17.7% tax and service charge. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotions, prior reservation is required and subject to space availability.

For reservations and further information, please contact the Barai at Hyatt Regency, Hua Hin at hotline tel: 0 2254 6200 or 0 3251 1234 and email: thebarai.hrhuahin@hyatt.com, www.thebarai.com

Boost Your Energy at Aspadeva Spa Sheraton Hua Hin Resort & Spa

■ Aspadeva Spa, Sheraton Hua Hin Resort & Spa is offering Energy for Men Treatment at 2,999 baht ++. Experience the energy boosting package specially designed for guys including energize steam, a facial specially designed to address male skin issues and a deep tissue massage using a muscle-relaxing aromatherapy oil blend.

Energy for Men is a 2.5-hour treatment, available until April 30, 2009.

Advance booking is required. Aspadeva Spa, located on the first floor, comprises 12 treatments rooms, including two Thai treatment rooms, two suites, a hydrotherapy room, jet and steam showers, chromatic jacuzzis, generous sauna and steam rooms separate for male and female guests, and the adjacent Aspadeva Hair & Beauty Salon.

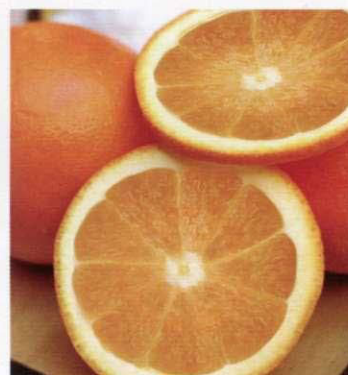


For reservations and further information, please contact Aspadeva Spa at Tel: 66 (0)32 708 235 E-mail: spa.huahin@sheraton.com, Resort Reservation Tel: 66 (0)32 708 080. Best rates are always available for online reservations at www.sheraton.com/huahin

Cool Down This Summer at the Barai

■ Bring your loved one to cool down this summer and enjoy true relaxation with a memorable spa experience with "Summer Sensation Spa Package" at the Barai, the award-winning destination spa at the Hyatt Hua Hin. This spa package is available from now until April 30, 2009.

Enhance your Barai Spa Experience by starting your treatment with a 15-minute refreshing tropical citrus bath in a private outdoor soaking pool, followed by a 90-minute exotic lime and lemongrass compress for two. After the treatment, you will enjoy a romantic cocktail and chef-recommended snack for two served at McFarland House. All is just 5,500 baht ++ per couple.



For reservations and further information, please contact THE BARAI at Hyatt Regency, Hua Hin at Hotline Tel: 0 2254 6200 or 0 3251 1234 and E-mail: thebarai.hrhuahin@hyatt.com, www.thebarai.com



Mile-high club?

A man boards an aircraft in London and takes his seat. After settling in he notices a very beautiful woman boarding the plane. He realizes she's heading straight towards him and can't believe his luck when she sits down next to him.

Not knowing what to say but eager to talk, he blurts out: "business trip or vacation?"

She turns to him, smiles and says: "Business. I'm going to the annual nymphomaniac convention in the United States."

The man swallows hard. Here is the most gorgeous woman he's ever seen, and she's going to a meeting for sex addicts!

Struggling to maintain his composure, he asks: "What's your role at this convention?"

"Lecturer," she responds. "I use my experience to debunk some of the popular myths about sexuality."

"Really," he smiles, "what myths are those?"

"Well," she explains, "one popular myth is that African American men are the most well endowed when, in

fact, it's the Native American Indian who is most likely to possess that trait.

"Another popular myth is that French men are the best lovers, when actually it is the Greeks.

"We have also found that the best potential lovers in all categories are the Irish."

Suddenly the woman becomes uncomfortable and blushes. "I'm sorry," she says, "I really shouldn't be discussing this with you, I don't even know your name."

"Tonto," the man says - 'Tonto Papadopoulos, but my friends call me Paddy.'



The old lady's nuts

A preacher visits an elderly woman from his congregation. As he sits on the couch he notices a large bowl of peanuts on the coffee table. "Mind if I have a few?" he asks.

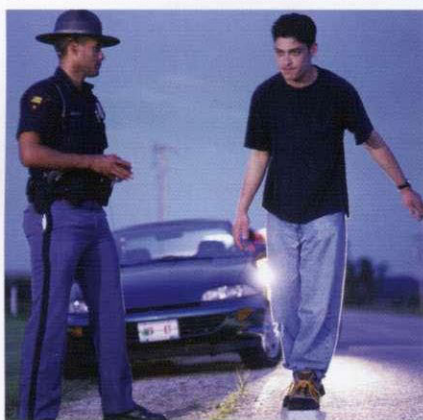
"No, not at all," the woman replies. They chat for an hour and as the preacher stands to leave, he realizes that instead of eating just a few peanuts, he emptied most of the bowl. "I'm so sorry for eating all your peanuts, I really just meant to eat a few," he says.

"Oh that's all right," replies the woman. "Ever since I lost my teeth all I can do is suck the chocolate off them."

The best of George W. Bush

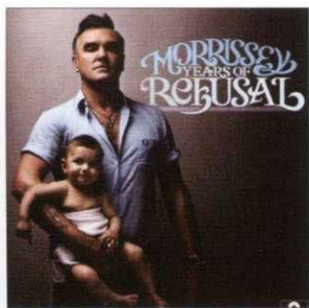


- "If we don't succeed, we run the risk of failure."
- "One word sums up probably the responsibility of any Governor, and that one word is 'to be prepared.'"
- "I have made good judgments in the past. I have made good judgments in the future."
- "The future will be better tomorrow."
- "We're going to have the best educated American people in the world."
- "A low voter turnout is an indication of fewer people going to the polls."
- "I have opinions of my own - strong opinions - but I don't always agree with them."
- "We are ready for any unforeseen event that may or may not occur."
- "For NASA, space is still a high priority."
- "Quite frankly, teachers are the only profession that teach our children."
- "It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it."
- "Public speaking is very easy."



Drunk's confession

One night a man - who was in no shape to drive - wisely left his car parked outside the pub and walked home. As he staggered along the road, a policeman stopped him and asked: "What are you doing out here at 2am?" "I'm going to a lecture," said the man. "And just who is going to give a lecture at this hour?" the cop asked. "My wife!"



Morrissey

Years of Refusal

THE king of the depressed returns with his ninth studio album and once again has a crack at all that is wrong with life. Opening with lyrics such as "no true friends in modern life," you'd be forgiven for thinking Morrissey needs to be told a few jokes to cheer up. But Morrissey is always happiest at his lowest, and once again sings his emo stories over glam-rock riffs and feel good synths which his legions of fans are sure to love.

Verdict: Morrissey offers another emotional roller-coaster which provides listeners with an enjoyable ride.



MEMORY LANE

Topping the UK Charts April 1979

1. M – Pop Muzik
2. Roxy Music – Dance Away
3. Boney M – Hooray Hooray It's A Holi-Holiday
4. Peaches & Herb – Reunited
5. Wings – Goodnight Tonight
6. Milk & Honey feat. Gali Atari – Hallelujah
7. Amii Stewart – Knock On Wood
8. Sex Pistols – Silly Thing
9. Ten Pole Tutor – Who Killed Bambi
10. Dickies – Banana Splits



Kelly Clarkson

All I Ever Wanted

IT'S hard to believe it's seven years since Kelly Clarkson won American pop idol. While everyone jokes that the show's creator Simon Cowell knows how to turn crap into money, in the case of Kelly Clarkson it seems that the girl has genuine talent.

While she may have won the show and arrived on radio waves singing the usual pop ballads, Kelly has slowly forged her own style and it turns out she's a bit of a badass. There were hints of her mean streak in 2004's 'Since you been gone,' and since that time Kelly has found herself likened to Avril Lavigne and Pink, notorious for venting their anger over pop punk chords.

Kelly's latest collection includes a rocking mix of songs full of hooks and catchy choruses, all displaying her mesmerizing voice. "I'm not your love monkey, so be takin' back all of the lies you sold," she cries on 'Why-awannabringmedown.'

But it's not all highlights on this album. Kelly occasionally slips into yawn inducing ballad territory which will have you reaching for the 'skip' button.

Verdict: When she's sappy, she's dull. When she's angry, she rocks. If Avril Lavigne and Pink excite you, put this album on your shopping list.



U2

No Line On The Horizon

U2's 12th studio album sees the masters of rock back with another excellent album, taking both a musical step forward while also rediscovering their Zooropa days. Guitarist The Edge continues to do what he does best and creates an ear-enlightening wall of sound that holds up Bono's yelps of personal and global injustices.

The bespectacled frontman is somewhat more self aware on this album. It's as if he knows that people think he's a bit of a hypocrite for preaching to stop global warming while his carbon footprint is huge. "The right to appear ridiculous is something I hold dear" he sings in 'I'll go crazy,' and there are many more instances where you'll feel as though Bono doubts that he'll ever be able to fully practice what he preaches. These insecurities make for excellent listening though.

Verdict: U2 proves once again it's a great rock 'n' roll band. Definite highlights are 'Get on your boots' and 'Stand up comedy.'

Neko Case

Middle Cyclone

ALTERNATIVE country is the order of the day with Neko Case's fifth studio album. Her vocal range is used to great effect over 14 tracks featuring guest artists such as members of The New Pornographers, Los Lobos, Calexico, The Sadies, Visqueen, The Lilys, Giant Sand, and others. The album features 12 new songs plus covers of 'Never Turn Your Back on Mother Earth' by Sparks, and 'Don't Forget Me' by Harry Nilsson.

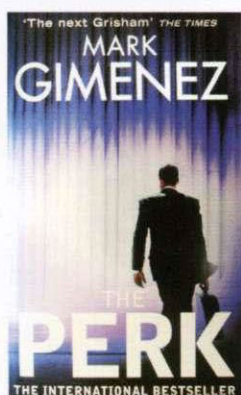
Verdict: Neko sings stories of lovesickness with such pure emotion that you can't help but fall in love with her music.

Royksopp

Junior

NORWEGIAN chill-out masters Royksopp drag listeners back into their dreamy world with their finest album yet. They take the best elements of debut album "Melody AM" and follow-up "The Understanding," and fuse them together to create an excellent collection of electro and house tunes that are sure to be heard at house parties throughout the kingdom.

Verdict: The coolest guys of chill-out return with an ice-cold collection of crisp beats just perfect for parties.

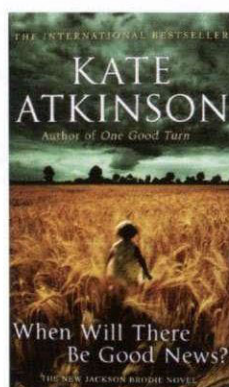


The Perk

by Mark Gimenez

Price: 350 baht

■ Beck Hardin returns to his Texas hometown - and his estranged father - after the death of his wife leaves him with two children to raise. The town is still reeling from the murder of sixteen-year-old Heidi, whose father - Beck's old college friend - asks Beck to help him find Heidi's killer before the statute of limitations runs out. Meanwhile, Beck is pushed into becoming town Judge, and he makes some powerful enemies amongst the rich white landowners when he refuses to condone their treatment of the Mexican workers of the town. As events escalate, the landowners carefully plot their revenge...



When Will There Be Good News?

by Kate Atkinson

Price: 350 baht

■ In a quiet corner of rural Devon, a six-year-old girl witnesses an appalling crime. Thirty years later the man convicted of the crime is released from prison.

In Edinburgh, sixteen-year-old Reggie, wise beyond her years, works as a nanny for a G.P. But her employer has disappeared with her baby, and Reggie seems to be the only person who is worried. Across town, Detective Chief Inspector Louise Monroe is also looking for a missing person, unaware that hurtling towards her is a former acquaintance - Jackson Brodie - himself on a journey that is about to be fatally interrupted.




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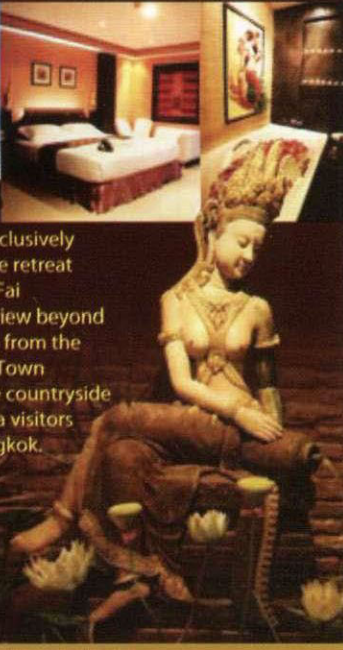


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Driven to anger - will conditions ever get better on Bangkok's roads?

Rights - and being wrong on the road

■ CHANGE comes slowly with regard to good manners among road users in Thailand. It took years, for example, for drivers here to get used to the idea that confusion, and therefore accidents, on the highways could best be avoided if vehicles actually stayed within assigned traffic lanes.

Unfortunately it may still take some time for drivers to get accustomed to the following:

- Turning on indicator lights doesn't give a driver the automatic right to switch lanes without regard to the vehicle immediately behind. The word "indicator" says it all - the light is merely an indication of intention, and not an order to get out of the way
- Black and white pedestrian crossings are designed to allow people to move safely from one side of the road to the other. It is not there to allow motorbikes or buses to honk their horns at people who have the temerity to actually expect them to stop.
- Exiting a car park on to a main road isn't an excuse for a driver to totally ignore pedestrians who may have ventured in their path.
- Turning from a side road into a main road requires vehicles to stop before, not after.

Why are economy seats so uncomfortable? Because they're meant to be that way



■ HERE'S some extremely unsettling news for those people who have suffered the agonies of traveling long haul in the back end of an aircraft: economy class seats have apparently been designed to be deliberately uncomfortable - so their occupants will vow to upgrade to business class on their next flight.

This cynical ploy, exposed recently by an airline executive to the BigChilli, is the travel industry's equivalent to the built-in obsolescence that ensures consumers continually update their computers and cars, or the fashion world's constant infatuation with change.

Shift, twist and wriggle your way round an economy class seat as much as you like, stuff extra blankets under your butt or wrap a stabilizer round your neck, the fact is, long-lasting comfort in 'cattle class' is elusive. By the end of your flight, your body feels as if it's been in a tumble dryer.

If you find this cynicism hard to believe, just try and think of the last time you saw an airline extolling the virtues of its economy class seats. They may bang on about the wonders of the front sections of their aircraft, with all of them claiming to have the world's best sleeper-seats, but none are brave enough to venture into the economy class to show off their torture racks.

To find a seat less comfortable is difficult. Admittedly a modern aircraft seat has to embody a number of special features (including remote controls



set in the arm rests that a passenger's body inadvertently sets off at every change of position!!) and they have to be exceptionally strong in case of accidents, but that should not alter the fact that you'd never actually choose to buy a chair this dreadfully uncomfortable for your home or even office.

The airlines' obsession with packing in as many passengers and therefore chairs as possible is, of course, mostly responsible for this situation. And with the average traveler getting bigger and more obese by the year, there's little hope of improvement or greater comfort.

Cost is yet another factor. With an upgrade from economy to business class costing as much as four times more, there's little chance of most passengers actually getting the comfort they crave.

After revealing his industry's indifference towards economy class passengers, the airline executive had the audacity to admit that he himself would hate to fly in that section of aircraft, especially in the seats that have no direct access to the aisles, which actually accounts for about 70% of all places.

Unfortunately, the alternative for travel-weary economy class customers is to eventually give up on long-haul flying. And who loses out then?

Sex to sell wine. Whatever next?

Mmmm, look at those saucy mushrooms - definitely "Fungtastic"



SEX is used in a variety of guises to market all kinds of products. From motor cars to chocolate bars, the world's favorite pastime is gainfully employed to boost sales.

Credibility was stretched recently in Bangkok, however, when a wine supplier opted for sex (in a certain guise) to promote its products. After the usual wine tasting, a bevy of pretty models then proceeded to appear on a specially constructed catwalk, each cradling a bottle of wine in their arms and sashaying along to the sound of suitably sexy music.

Even though the girls were conservatively attired, it was a rather odd juxtaposition of concepts. The resulting spectacle was strange, it has to be said.

What will they think of next?

It's no fun losing a parking ticket



OF all the frustrations in Bangkok life, a lost parking ticket is one of the most frequent and certainly one of the most irritating. It's truly amazing how often they go missing. After frantically re-tracking your steps, searching your trouser and jacket pockets, and maybe even looking in your shoes, you're then faced with a humorless and totally unsympathetic parking attendant who hits you with a ridiculously high penalty charge.

And to make matters worse, this invariably happens late at night or when you're due at an important meeting.

There's just got to be a better system.



Vroom vroom! - high performance vehicles can reach speeds way above the legal limit, but why?

Unlimited speeds on roads with limits

TO get away from the frustrations of life in Bangkok, an expatriate businessman has revealed he loved nothing more than to drive his German-made sports car on the elevated highway between Bang Na and Chonburi at speeds in excess of 220 kmph. At night, it is one of the quietest and best lit stretches of road in the country, and its surface is generally very consistent.

His speed breached the official limit

by at least 100 kmph.

Meanwhile, in the UK, it's been reported that a motorcyclist was clocked by police barreling along at even higher speeds. At least he was on his own, for another clearly demented motorcyclist had his 14-year-old son on the rear seat as he topped 122 mph on a rain-sodden road. (He was later jailed for six months for his "unbelievable lack of responsibility" - and rightly too).

All of which begs the question, why do these drivers do it?

The answer, of course, is because they can. Simple as that. In each case, these people are in charge of vehicles capable of enormous speeds - way above what is permitted by law.

So why are car and motorcycle companies allowed to manufacture such speed machines? It's another of life's great conundrums.



Black Mountain Masters 2009

The world's leading golfers arrived in Hua Hin for the prestigious Black Mountain Masters 2009 golf tournament, which was held at the Black Mountain Golf Club from March 26 - 29. The tournament pulled in legions of golf enthusiasts. In the evenings various functions were hosted by Hua Hin Hotelier's Club.



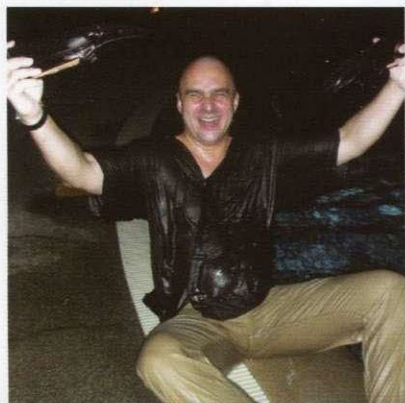




Free mini massage at Black Mountain Masters 2009

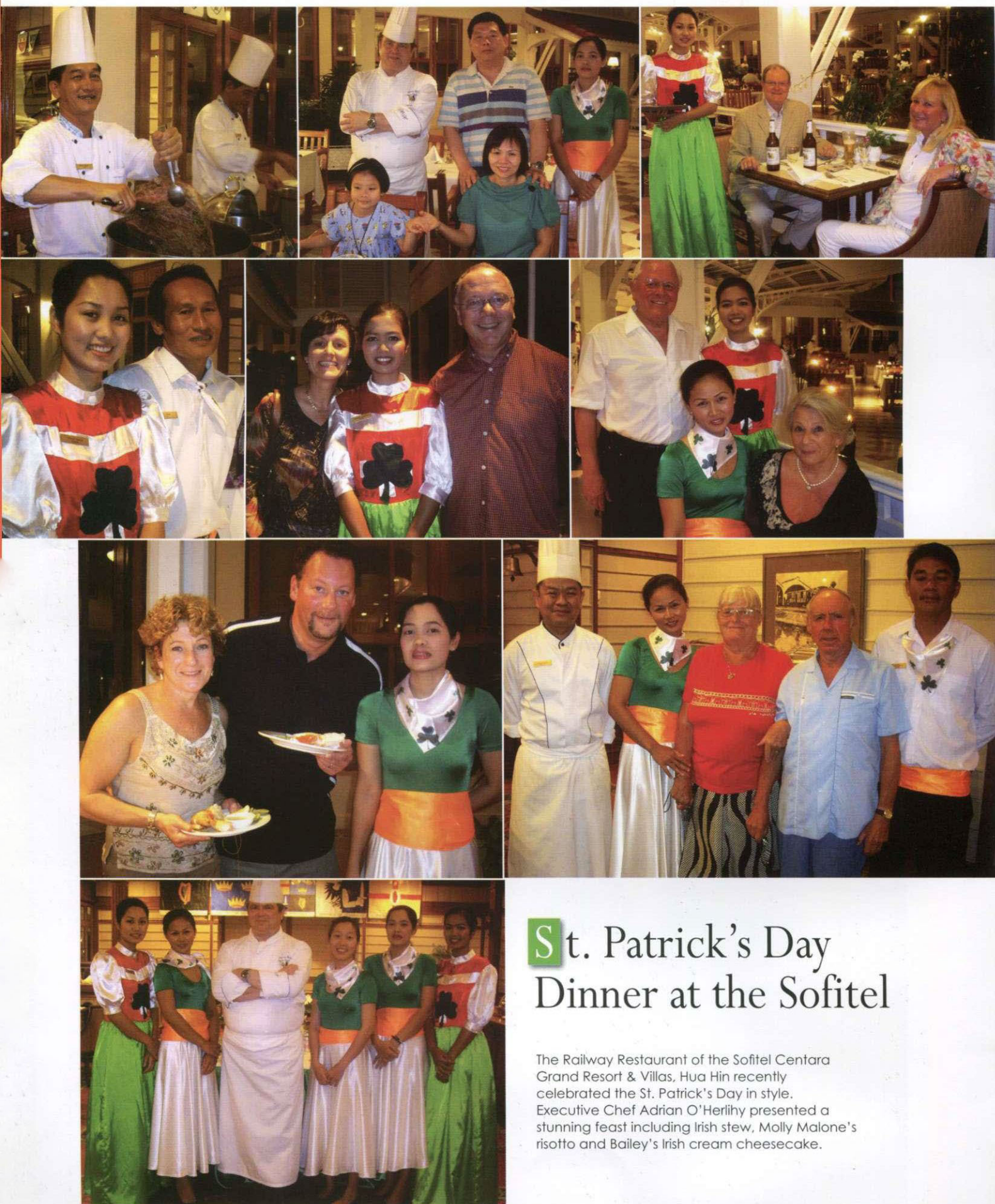
Hua Hin Marriott and Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa gave away a free "Mini Massage" from their world-class Mandara Spa and Anantara Spa at the spa corner to pamper golfers and their fans at the Black Mountain Masters 2009 golf tournament.





Poolside Cinema at Hilton Hua Hin

Hilton Hua Hin Resort & Spa recently launched its outdoor poolside cinema with a VIP 'cinematic splash' featuring celebrities DJ & VJ's and top Thai models. Popcorn and hotdogs were served to the guests while they were enjoying the films.



St. Patrick's Day Dinner at the Sofitel

The Railway Restaurant of the Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas, Hua Hin recently celebrated the St. Patrick's Day in style. Executive Chef Adrian O'Herlihy presented a stunning feast including Irish stew, Molly Malone's risotto and Bailey's Irish cream cheesecake.

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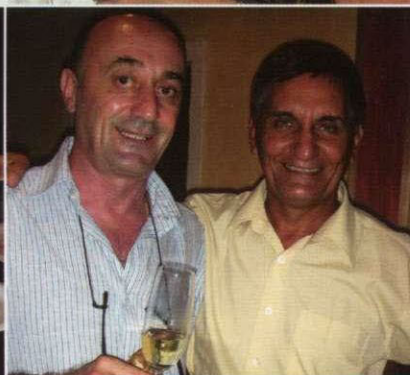
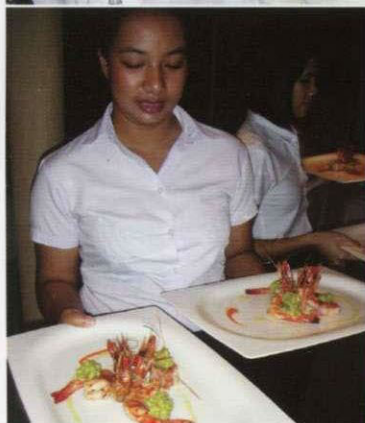
Earth Hour at Hua Hin Marriott Resort & Spa

Hua Hin Marriott Resort and Spa recently joined the worldwide Earth Hour campaign by inviting guests to switch off the lights and refrain from using electrical instruments in rooms for one hour. As there was a strong moon light during that time, the hotel presented a Cast Away theme dinner on the beach.



Thank You Party at Sheraton Hua Hin

Lead by the general manager Mr. Martin Raich, Sheraton Hua Hin Resort & Spa recently held the thank you party at the resort's night club "@ Black" to thank all associates for their hard work and dedication during the 14th ASEAN Summit in February 2009.



Wine Dinner at La Grappa

Mr. Peter Kirketerp and G Four International recently held a wine dinner on March 18 at La Grappa Italian Restaurant. Guests started the evening with the Champagne Grand Tour, Premier Cru 2006. Prepared by Chef Andreas Boniffacio, guests then enjoyed an excellent meal complimented by red wine from Tenuta Sette Ponti vineyard in Tuscany and from Feudo Maccari vineyard in Sicily.

La Grappa

Ristorante Pizzeria



Chef Patron Andreas Bonifacio invites guests to enjoy La Grappa's New Lunch Buffet at a net price of Baht 390.00 per person.

The Lunch Buffet comprises a three course lunch starting with a Buffet of Mixed Antipasti followed by either a Pasta or a grilled Salmon, a Chicken Roll or a Steak main menu at your choice and with an Ice Crème to complete the Lunch.

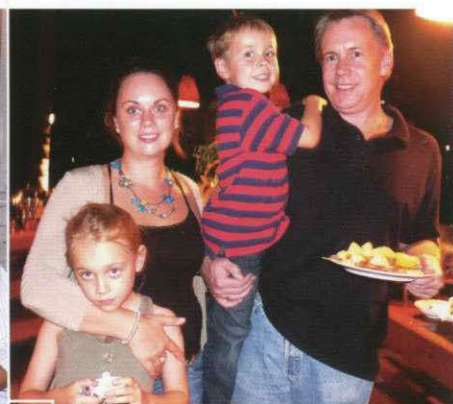
Enjoy the Buffet Lunch with a pleasant glass of White or Red Wine or a glass of Prosecco for an additional price of Baht 190.00 per glass.



La Grappa

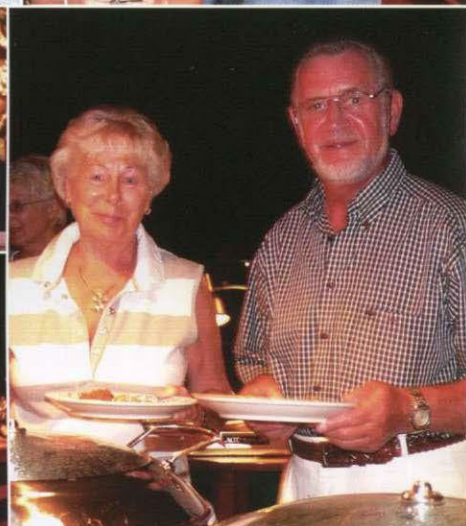
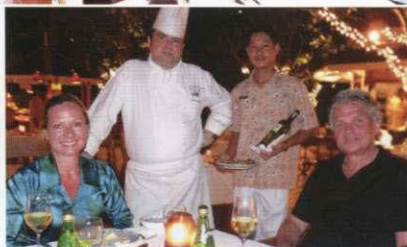
Ristorante Pizzeria

20/5 Poolsuk Rd.,
Hua Hin, Prachuabkhirikhan
Tel: +66 (0) 3251 6510



Les Jamelles Wine Dinner

Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas, Hua Hin and Central Food Retail featured a special buffet Winemaker Dinner featuring Les Jamelles Wines at the hotel's Palm Terrace recently. The Les Jamelles winemaking team from France was present to tell their story and answer questions.

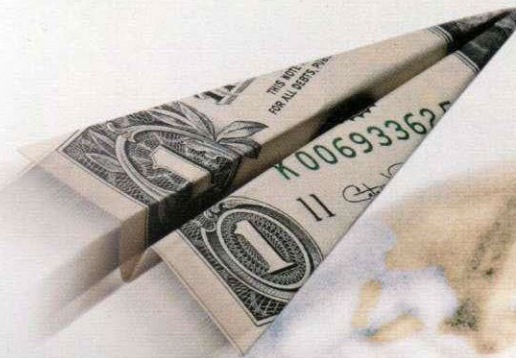


Wedding Reception of Paichet Makmoo & Napawan Tancharoen

Narisara Chavaltanpipat, Deputy Minister of Education recently presided over the wedding reception of Paichet Makmoo and Napawan Tancharoen at the Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas, Hua Hin. More than 600 guests attended the reception.

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Purachatra Memorial Day

HRH Princess Mahachakri Sirindhorn graciously presided over the Purachatra Memorial Day, an auspicious event co-organized by the Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas, Hua Hin and the Vimalachatra 84th Anniversary Fund. The event was in honour of HRH Princess Purachatra's 30-year service to the Thai monarchy.







The Purachatra Memorial Day at Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas, Hua Hin

by Michael Moore



THRH Prince Purachatra, son of King Rama V and founder of the Chatrajaya family, was an important person in the development of Thailand and in Hua Hin in particular. It was fitting that on 7 March 2009, the Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas in Hua Hin was the site of celebrations honouring this talented and farsighted prince and all that he accomplished during his 30 years of service to the Monarchy and the Kingdom of Thailand.

The Purachatra Memorial Day celebrations were graciously presided over by HRH Princess Mahachakri Sirindhorn and were organized by the Vimalachatra 84th Anniversary Fund, members of the Chatrajaya family and the Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas.

An important part of the proceedings were the announcement of international standard awards presented by the HRH the Princess and given in honour of Prince Purachatra. The Contemporary Architecture Award went to the Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas, Hua Hin, the Hotel Business Pioneer Award was received by Than Puying Chanat Piyaoui, and the Tourism Award went to General Chalermchai Jaruwas.

After watching the presentation of the awards, everyone proceeded to hotel's charming Museum Coffee & Tea Corner for a traditional English high tea. Everyone enjoyed themselves and many were surprised to learn that high tea is a standard part of the Tea Corner's repertoire and is available each day.



Originally only nine holes, it was enlarged to an 18-hole course in 1929 and opened by King Rama VII. The golf course still exists and is an integral part of Hua Hin's current attractions.

He adopted a four pronged approach to developing Hua Hin into a world-class destination that included creating an infrastructure for transportation, accommodation, administration and recreation. Ultimately, this infrastructure not only served Hua Hin, but also benefited the Kingdom as a whole.

The Prince recognized that for Hua Hin to serve as a seaside resort it would have to be not only accessible to the elite, but also to ordinary Thais. To make this happen he facilitated the 1917 extension of the railway to Hua Hin. He also insured that the charming railway station that exists to this day was built and that a road extended from the station to the beach.

Accommodation was necessary and HRH the Prince, created bungalows on 76 rai of railway land fronting the beach. To entice foreign visitors in 1922 he commissioned the railway's Italian architect to create an international standard hotel of 14 rooms. The State Railway Hotel was completed in only one year and cost 128,634.94 baht to build – a paltry amount by today's standards, but a significant amount of in the 1920's. Over the years this hotel went through several permutations and is now known as the Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas. Thankfully, the original building has been preserved and is an integral part of the present structure.

Also in 1923, Thailand's first golf course was built opposite the train station to attract foreigners and affluent Thais. Originally only nine holes, it was enlarged to an 18-hole course in 1929 and opened by King Rama VII. The golf course still exists and is an integral part of Hua Hin's current attractions.

The Prince recognized that an administrative structure would have to be established to insure Hua Hin's governance and growth. He established the "West Seaside Resort Maintenance Council" that was financed primarily by the State Railway. It monitored city planning, road construction, clinics, water processing and a modern market – Chatrajaya Market – named in the Prince's honour.

HRH Prince Purachatra was a man of many talents who contributed much to his country. For a list of his accomplishments, simply take a look around. Airplanes, railways, hotels, the tourist industry, the postal service and infinitely more are what he contributed to his country. He was indeed a remarkable man.



An integral part of the ceremonies was an enumeration and recollection of the numerous achievements of HRH Prince Purachatra. Educated in Europe, he was a man of broad vision and talents and served in the Army Corps of engineers where he introduced Thailand to many of the technological innovations that were being developed in the world surrounding the Kingdom. Among other things, he established the country's aviation industry, radio network and post and cable system. He has often been called "the father" of Thailand's Royal State Railway, Army Signal Corps, Royal Army Engineers, Broadcasting System, and the country's Hotel Industry. He is also known as the "initiator" of the Thai Tourism Authority, the Thai Mason's Association and the Thai Civil Aviation System.

HRH Prince Purachatra recognized the potential of Hua Hin when it was only a small and sleepy fishing village. Eighty years ago, he laid the foundations for transforming Hua Hin and environs into the resort that Thais and foreign visitors enjoy today.

Celebrating 100 Years of Hua Hin

This year marks 100 years since the railway line reached Hua Hin, cementing its future as Thailand's first resort town. To celebrate the occasion, the local authorities are arranging a series of free events over the coming months.



It was during the reign of King Rama VI, the Royal State Railway of Siam opened a line to the seaside town in order to allow ease of access for the royal family. A beautiful railway station was built and to this day remains as one of the oldest, most well preserved stations in Thailand. The advent of the railway was closely followed by the construction of Klai Kangwon Palace in 1926 by King Rama VII. Meaning 'far from worries' in Thai, Klai Kangwon continues to be used as the official royal residence; a fact that ensures Hua Hin has a special place in the hearts of all Thai people. In recent years, the King has spent much of his time in residence at the palace. His presence means that the area is home to military bases that include an elite parachute regiment and the Royal Thai Police, resulting in a very low crime rate in the town.

Other significant events that have contributed to Hua Hin's growth were the opening of the Royal Hua Hin Golf Course in October 1922, and in 1926 the introduction of European Express trains with sleeper berths running from Bangkok to Penang and Butterworth in Malaysia.

During the chaos of World War 2 stories of Hua Hin's tranquility spread throughout the east and following the war infrastructure

and access to transportation was improved dramatically.

In recent years the once sleepy beachfront resort town of Hua Hin has attracted well-deserved attention. As the location of the King of Thailand's summer palace, Hua Hin found favour with Thais long before it was discovered by Western tourists. Today, however, it is not just Bangkokians slipping away for a weekend of clean air and fresh seafood that visit the town. Hua Hin is now squarely on the map as a premier holiday destination and is attracting visitors from around the world.

The town has a thriving community, nine excellent golf courses, many international and local hotels and resorts, a vibrant nightlife and excellent restaurants. The town can now be easily reached by air, water, road, and railway; in fact the renowned Orient Express stops in Hua Hin several times a month.

Residents and visitors can look forward to the following events: (many dates still to be confirmed).

May Summer Fest

The Honda Summer Fest'@ Hua Hin will feature concerts



by Thai artists. It will take place from midday to 2 a.m. on May 17th at Khao Takieb Beach, Hua Hin. Over 20 bands and DJs are scheduled for the event which is guaranteed to attract thousands of visitors. Bands will include Modern Dog, Groove Rider and the popular ska outfit, T-Bone.

June

Jazz Festival

This year, the Hua Hin Jazz Festival will be held on June 12 – 14th. Originally founded by the Hilton Hua Hin Resort and Spa eight years ago the event pulls in more than 15,000 visitors. Although the free event is one of the town's biggest annual attractions in recent years it has been blighted by poor organization and lack-lustre bands. This year sees a new events management company on board and hopefully a more professional festival. The line-up of bands is not available yet...

July & August

Golf Festival

The Tourism Authority of Thailand Phetchaburi Office, together with the Phetchaburi - Prachuap Khiri Khan Golf Course Association, invites all golf lovers to join in the fun during the Hua Hin/Cha-am Golf Festival throughout August. Further information can be obtained from TAT Central Region 2 on 0323 471 005-6 during government office hours or from any of the nine participating golf courses.

Hua Hin Regatta

The popular Hua Hin Regatta which attracts upwards of 300 competitors each year will take place in the resort town from July 30th until August 3rd. The great location guarantees top entertainment as competitors try to bag trophies for vari-

ous classes of boat. The event takes place at Hua Hin Naval Yacht Club near Klai Kangwong Palace. If you are interested in joining the competition or would like more information please call the Public Relations Department of The Sailing Association of Thailand 081-583-9689, 02-472-0852 or go onto the website. www.yrat.or.th

September

Hua Hin Film Festival

A series of short films will be shown that celebrate 100 years of Hua Hin.

November

Hua Hin Food Festival

Held from November 18th – 22nd, the Hua Hin Food Festival is bound to be one of the city's most popular events. Dozens of vendors will line the streets with stalls offering local delicacies, day and night.

VIP Train Journey

Organized by Orient Express, a VIP Train will run from Bangkok to Hua Hin. The luxurious trip will include live music and food.

December

Vintage Car Rally

This year's Vintage Car Rally will be held on December 11th – 12th. Over 60 selected vintage, classic and replica cars will join the event. The car rally will begin the 225-kilometre journey from the Sofitel Central Plaza Bangkok, stopping in Phetchaburi province for lunch at a famous local restaurant before continuing onwards, arriving in Hua Hin around 5pm. One of the event's main sponsors, Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas, Hua Hin will also host a fabulous Gala Dinner.

Introducing Martin Raich, GM of the Sheraton Hua Hin Resort & Spa

When Martin Raich accepted the post of GM at the Sheraton Hua Hin Resort & Spa in September 2008 the town was looking forward to another peak season. Few could have predicted the turmoil that followed. Yet despite taking the reins during difficult times, the Austrian national remains optimistic about the country's future as a premier tourist destination.

A veteran hotelier with over 22 years' experience, Martin Raich speaks candidly about his tendency to come into a resort, get the operation running smoothly and move on. "It's the challenge of doing something new that has kept me motivated." And those challenges have been quite considerable. After the tragedy of the tsunami, Martin was tasked with enhancing Le Meridien Khao Lak.

"There were two main problems. Thai guests are very superstitious and



would not come to the hotel because as far as they are concerned there are many ghosts in the area. Fortunately the location and style of the resort also has appeal for Europeans and that is now the main market. Attracting staff was also very difficult as most Thais want to work in the cities. In order to lure them, resorts in Khao Lak offer some of the best wages in the country," says Martin.

After two years in Khao Lak he accepted the post at the Sheraton Hua Hin Resort & Spa, a brand new property popular with both Thai and foreign visitors. "From an hoteliers perspective, Hua Hin is a very interesting place," asserts Martin. "There is no other place in Thailand, other than Bangkok, where you can find so many major hospitality brands competing in the same town."

According to Martin, Hua Hin's visitor figures also reveal the town's unique environment as a tourist destination. "Whereas Pattaya attracts around four

million foreigners and 300,000 local visitors annually, in Hua Hin it's the reverse. The town welcomes over four million locals but only around 400,000 foreigners. At weekends Bangkok lives here!"

During the recent ASEAN Summit the Sheraton Hua Hin Resort & Spa played an important role as the event's press centre. It was also the resort of choice for the Singaporean delegation.

"The fact that we are a new resort and have a reputation for excellent security and safety systems, a modern and efficient communications network, as well as beautiful surroundings, clearly influenced their decision to stay with us," says Martin.

Despite Thailand's turbulent year, Martin is confident that the country will soon be back on track and that arrival numbers will keep increasing. "Thailand is the perfect destination. Nowhere else in Asia can compete," he says.

For Martin, the country increasingly feels like home. "After over two decades in the business I'm less keen to move on than I used to be. I like Hua Hin and this resort very much. I also have a young child and another on the way soon so I think I'll be here for some time."

www.starwoodhotels.com



Napalai Resort & Spa



Located in the up and coming Kao Takiab district, Napalai Resort & Spa offers spacious and comfortable accommodation at reasonable rates. Ideal for the budget traveler, the low rise hotel is built around a central swimming pool and offers Superior and Deluxe rooms, a restaurant, spa, and meeting facilities. Each of the 60 rooms provides a private balcony with views towards the famous Kao Takiab Hill and Wat Run Thom, or out across the rolling hills. Although the property is not beachfront it is only a 150 metre walk from the white sand bay overlooked by the famous golden Buddha image.

The 24 Deluxe rooms have a double or twin bed, depending on guest requirements. Rooms are a generous 42 square metres and have a large bathroom with rain shower and bathtub. Décor is simple but tastefully done in contemporary Thai style. The wooden furniture is made

from rich dark woods; white cotton sheets are enlivened by colourful Thai silks and cushions. In-room amenities include cable TV, safe, and tea and coffee making facilities. Wireless internet is available but is not complimentary as you would normally expect from a small independent hotel.

A highlight of the resort is its poolside spa. The Amana Spa features four private treatment rooms, each with its own steam room, and well trained therapists ready to help you relax and rejuvenate. Treatments from the extensive spa menu include a 30 minute Thai herbal steam; a wonderful way to start or finish any of the other treatments on offer. Other herbal-based options include the renowned luk prakob, a hot compress filled with traditional medicinal herbs. The 90-minute treatment is ideal for easing aching muscle after a day on the golf course. In addition to individual

treatments, a range of value for money spa packages is also available.

For those wishing to conduct a business meeting, a room for up to 80 persons is available. The Sea Breeze Restaurant can provide a fully catered service of Thai or international cuisine.

Napalai Resort & Spa is located six kilometres from the heart of Hua Hin. The hotel is walking distance from Kao Takiab Beach and close to many excellent local restaurants and bars. The Napalai Resort & Spa offers a twice daily shuttle service to Hua Hin for a fee. A taxi service is also available opposite the hotel.

*Napalai Resort & Spa,
22/1 Moobaan Huadon,
Takiab Road, Nongka, Huahin 77110,
Tel +66(0) 3252 7555
Fax +66(0) 32512212
Email: info@NapalaiHuahin.com
Visit the website at www.napalaihuahin.com*

Cafe de Paris at the Railway Restaurant Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas Hua Hin



Thailand is justifiably famous for the high quality of buffet dining at its numerous five-star hotels. For one of these restaurants to stand above the crowd, it must be truly extraordinary. Such is the case with the "Café de Paris" French Buffet that operates on Saturday evenings at the Railway Restaurant at the venerable Sofitel Centara Grand Resort and Villas in Hua Hin.

The resort itself began life in 1923 with the opening of a 14 room structure designed by an Italian architect and commissioned by the visionary H.R.H. Prince Purachatra. Although modified and enlarged over the years to include a 207 room resort and 42 villas, the resort maintains its original style of architecture and charm. The Railway Restaurant with both indoor and outdoor seating is located in the centre of the resort and is operated under the watchful eye of Executive Chef Adrian O'Herlihy and a cadre of talented chefs.

Many buffets advertise that they have "live cooking stations", but all too often this turns out to be a case of a chef tending food that has already been cooked. This isn't what happens at the Café de Paris buffet. There are chefs everywhere cooking food to order and interacting with customers.

Another salient feature of this buffet is the breadth and quality of the ingredients on offer. Chef O'Herlihy has been in Thailand for several years and has developed a network of both local



and international suppliers unmatched at virtually any hotel in the Kingdom.

A good example is the excellent frog legs, something this reviewer has never encountered on a buffet in Thailand. Chef O'Herlihy imports them from Vietnam. His oysters are Fin de Clair Oysters from Brittany. The venison is from New Zealand and the beef from Australia. The list is seemingly endless and the buffet is filled with items not often seen at other buffets. To keep life interesting for those who are regulars at the buffet, Chef O'Herlihy changes some items each week.

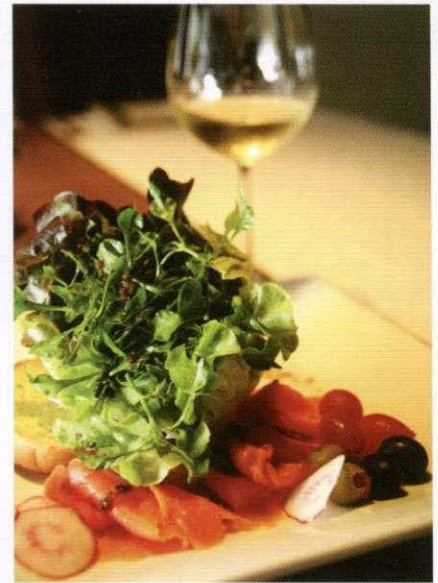
There were several highlights that made a lasting impression during our visit. Caesar Salad when prepared to order can be a treat, but when prepared in

advance, it can be dismal. At this buffet a chef prepares it to order. The seafood here is a stellar attraction, especially those Fin de Clair Oysters, but equally impressive are the mounds of slipper lobster, mussels, rivers prawns and Alaskan king crab legs. If you are a meat lover, the live station with Roast Leg of Lamb, Roast Rib of Beef and Grilled Fillet of Beef is a real treat.

The salads are exemplary and many are prepared to order. The dessert station is a hedonist's dream. Among the highlights during our visit were a smashing Ricotta Tart with Dried Fruit Compote and a homely Forest Berry Crumble with Crème Anglaise.

Hopefully, you get the message. Café de Paris is a memorable buffet that stands head and shoulders above most of the competition. It is a must for anyone visiting Thailand's oldest beach resort. In fact, it is so good; it warrants a special trip to Hua Hin just to enjoy the buffet!

For more information and reservation please contact;
Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas,
Hua Hin
1 Damernkasem Road
Hua Hin
Prachuab-khirikhan 77110
Tel. 0 3251 2021-38 Fax. 0 3151 1014
E-mail: fboffice@sofitel.co.th
www.sofitel.com,
www.centarahotelsresorts.com



The Terrace at the Banyan Golf Club Hua Hin

If you are looking for an inspiring setting for a meal, forget beachfront views. The Gulf of Thailand is no match for the glorious sea of green that welcomes diners at Mulligan's Pub and The Terrace. Located within the clubhouse of the Banyan Golf Club, the venue features striking architecture that skilfully blends traditional Thai style with contemporary sensibilities, making it one of the most impressive structures in region.

Hua Hin's newest epicurean experience is attracting the non-golfing fraternity keen to taste the fine food and soak in the views. Plan to arrive at around 5.30 p.m. and start the evening on the deck at Mulligan's Pub enjoying an ice cold beer or glass of wine as the sun slowly sinks below the horizon. Suitably relaxed, diners can move on to The Terrace. This unique restaurant offers a carefully composed menu of international and Thai dishes at favourable prices.

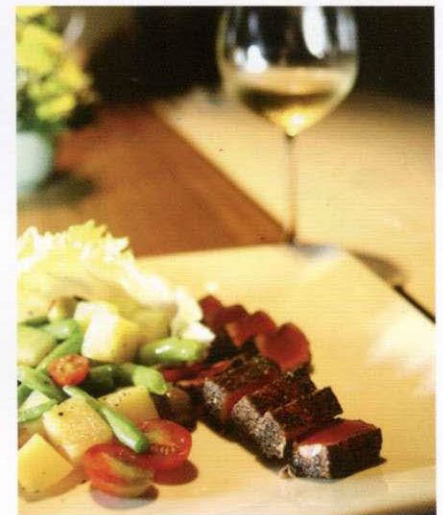
A highlight of dining at The Terrace is the opportunity to explore the wine collection established by Khun Sanit, a passionate sommelier ranked among Thailand's top ten. Having ordered a Bayan smoked salmon salad with greens in a balsamic dressing, I opted for the Chilean Anekana, a refreshing Sauvignon Blanc ideal to cut through the rich fish. Other light summer salads include sweet mango and rocket salad with crispy bacon, and Parma ham with avocado. Soup lovers can enjoy delicate lobster bisque with Cognac or a comforting asparagus cream soup with truffle oil.

Main dishes include an excellent selection of pasta dishes, pizzas and



hearty burgers but it is the grill section that caught my attention. The measure of a good restaurant can easily be gauged by the quality of its beef. At The Terrace it is premium quality Australian tenderloin, striploin and ribeye on offer. Succulent, flavourful and paired with a bold and fruity Shiraz, the tenderloin served with asparagus, mushrooms and pepper sauce proved to be one of the best I've eaten for a very long time. Other hearty dishes include grilled lamb cutlets, grilled duck breast, and fillet of sea bass.

Cuisine at The Terrace is as it should be; unpretentious, well presented and sensibly priced. Whether you are a



golfer or not it's worth the trip out to this exceptional restaurant.

The Terrace is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner from 06.00 - 20.00 hrs. Mulligan's Pub is open from 12 noon - 22.00 hrs.

THE Banyan
GOLF CLUB HUA HIN

For reservations, please contact:
Tel: + 66(0) 3216200
Email: reservations@banyanestatehuahin.com
The Banyan Estate and Golf Club (Hua Hin) Co., Ltd.
101 Moo 9, Tab Tai, Hua Hin.
www.banyanestatehuahin.com

Confessions in a bottle — how to tell if the wine you are drinking really is off

Kathrin Puff, winemaker at Siam Winery, reveals how and why a wine loses its flavour

Relaxation is an important part of life, and people long to find equilibrium in their everyday chaos. But how we relax depends on our individual character. Some people like to read; some like to go dancing; some just run for hours; and some meditate over a glass of wine. We do these activities not only to enjoy a moment of peace and quiet; but as a

well deserved gift to ourselves - especially in the case of a bottle of wine.

So there's nothing more annoying, then, than finishing a busy day at work, meeting up with friends, opening a bottle of wine, and then finding the wine is off - your moment of relaxation is completely ruined.

Wine is one of the most delicate drinks one can imagine. As it has an

alcohol content of somewhere between 8-15 % vol., a pH of 3-3.8 and consists mainly of organic acids - and sometimes residual sugars etc. - it can still be affected by microbiological activity. Chemio-physic influences such as temperature change, sunlight, oxygen etc. can also ruin its taste.

Wine producers around the world try to combat these factors when preparing their wines by imagining the worst case scenarios; and also by educating people how to transport and store wine bottles. But still here and there the damage is done.

In the following list I describe a few 'off flavors' to look out for, and also the causes - which are not always within the control of the producer.

Cork taint:

This is the most common off-flavor to be found in a wine. Even with high quality corks, this flavor can still develop if there is the presence of Chlor or Brom. Special microbes form by integrating these two elements in their metabolism, and this results in the following tastes: wet towel, damp, moldy or simply cork itself. The bottle is spoilt if having cork taint.

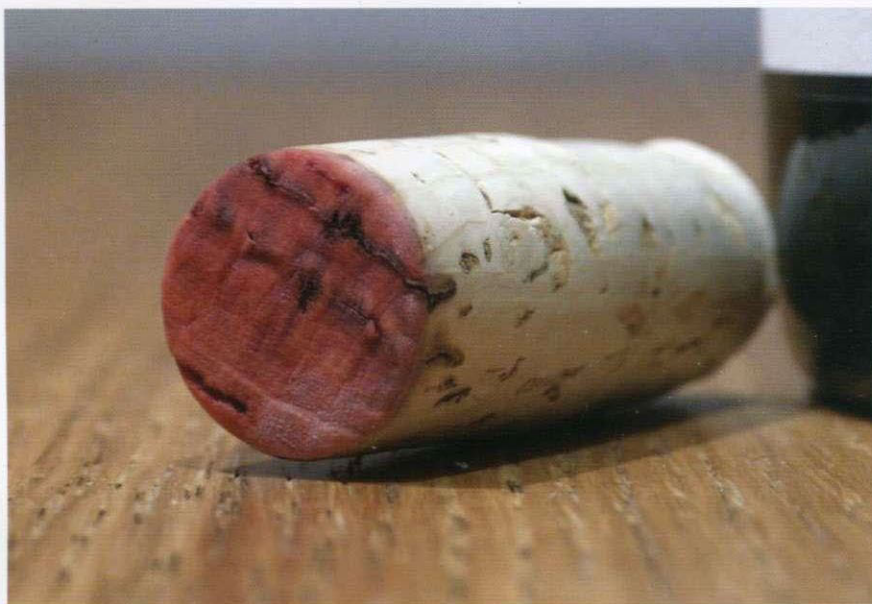
Reduction:

This common off-flavor is not known by most people, but it occurs especially in wines that have been vinified strictly anti-oxidative, possibly through the application of too much SO₂ during bottling, or by avoiding aeration during or after fermentation (stressed yeasts). Even bottled wines with screw caps may have this off-flavor as they do not permit a passage of oxygen through the closure. The off-flavors perceived are described - in the best cases - as: lighted match, slate, asphalt, sulphury, and chalk. Most of the time the reduction can disappear shortly after opening the bottle, as air is the best cure against a reductive wine.

In the worst case though, the flavors are described as follows: Rotten eggs, pungent, stinky, onion, and garlic. In other words - not too good at all.

In this case, no amount of air will help to change the wine's flavor, and the wine is best judged as spoilt.



**Oxidation:**

This is also a common off-flavor, and the opposite of Reduction. In this case the wine has been enriched by oxygen during vinification or the bottling process, and the free sulfur was consumed immediately by the dissolved oxygen in the wine. Oxidized wines taste aged, not fresh anymore, with a strong note of ethanol or acetaldehyde (cut apple). In the worst case, the wine may remind you of Sherry or Port Wine. Even wrong storage can easily oxidize wine (high temperatures, sunlight etc).

I hope that you find this information useful. I will provide more examples in next month's article.

About Kathrin

Kathrin Puff is Siam Winery's Winemaker who oversees the production of Monsoon Valley Wines, as well as other Siam Winery products such as Mont Clair and Fresco.

Kathrin was born and raised in Germany before embarking on a wine career that would take her around the globe, gaining significant experience in winemaking in both the new and old worlds.

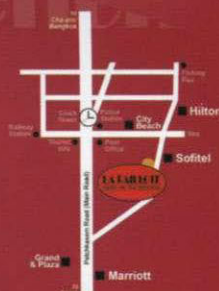
Not only did she spend almost 6 years working in Italy's most notable wineries - Including the Azienda Dievole Winery, where she was promoted to be chief winemaker - but she also took on the role of Associate Winemaker during two different vintages in New Zealand, 2005 and 2007.

**ENJOY A TASTY DINNER IN STYLE**

LA PAILLOTE is a French restaurant with a wonderful romantic outdoor terrace.



Gaston and his team welcome you every day from 12 am until late in the evening. The tranquil atmosphere and exquisite food does not mean expensive pricing. LA PAILLOTE desire is to provide outstanding food and drinks at very reasonable price.



Special Christmas Set Menu at 690 B, Special NEW YEAR GALA DINNER at 1290 B
Looking for seeing you for an unforgettable experience at LA PAILLOTE

For reservation: reservation@pailloite.net www.pailloite.net or call (032) 521 025 or 086 095 1100

Foreign Currency Deposit Account



A digital display board from the Bank of Ayudhya showing exchange rates for various currencies. The board is divided into two sections: 'Buying' and 'Selling'. The 'Buying' section lists rates for USD (1, 5-20, 50-100), EUR, GBP, JPY 100, CHF, SEK, and AUD. The 'Selling' section lists rates for VND and SEK. All rates are subject to alteration without notice.


BANK OF AYUDHYA		
Exchange Rates Date: 21-09-06		
Buying	Note	TC
USD 1	38.3400	39.2900
USD 5-20	38.7000	000000
USD 50-100	39.1200	000000
EUR	48.0900	48.3550
GBP	71.1900	72.4200
JPY 100	366.400	366.687
CHF	308.100	311.375
SEK	50.900	52.425
AUD	29.1500	29.3450

All rates are subject to alteration without notice.
Other rates are available on request.

Selling		
Currency	Rate	Rate
VND	58.1200	58.3420
SEK	20.000	25.452
CHF	308.100	311.375
AUD	29.1500	29.3450

- Minimize risk over exchange rate fluctuation
- Maximize flexibility in managing foreign currencies
- Increase value of your money with an attractive interest rate





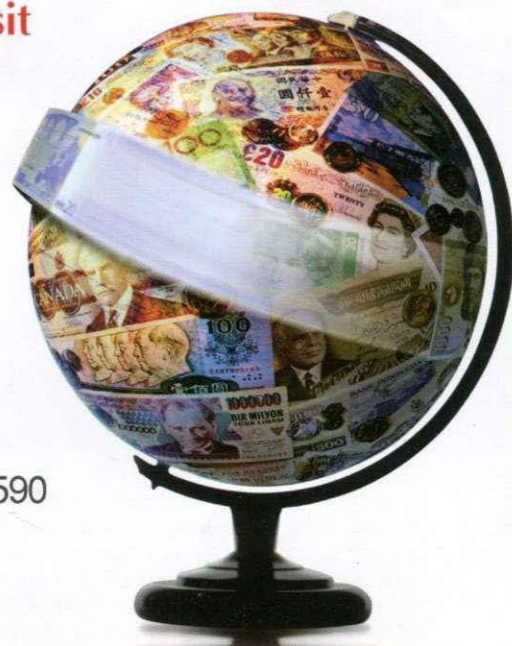
Foreign Currency Deposit Account is a service to help minimize risk over exchange rate fluctuation, maximize flexibility in managing foreign currencies and increase value of your money with an attractive interest rate and for savings or investment purposes.

You can open a **Foreign Currency Deposit Account** at any of our branches* throughout Thailand. There are up to 11 major currencies available with an attractive interest rate.

For your further convenience, we also offer our new "FCD-ATM card", a card that allows you to withdraw cash from **Foreign Currency Deposit Account** at any Bank of Ayudhya's 24-hours operated ATM nationwide.

* Except Narathivas Branch

For more information, please call 0 2296 4382 or 0 2296 5590
KRUNGSRI Call Center 1572
e-mail: msupport@krungsri.com
www.krungsri.com



BANK OF AYUDHYA

DUSIT THANI HUA HIN



This beachfront resort is a favourite of Bangkok's well-to-do as a weekend retreat. It features 296 guest rooms, all with balconies that provide views of the sea, gardens or pool. The Grand Rooms and Dusit Club Rooms have recently been refurbished and combine classic European décor with Thai craftsmanship. The resort offers several dining options including San Marco Italian Restaurant. Thai cuisine can be enjoyed at Baan Benjarong. Facilities include tennis and squash courts, a fitness centre, riding track, and the Devarana Spa. 1349 Petchkasem Road, Cha-Am. Tel: 032 520 009

BAAN BAYAN



This fine resort features one of Hua Hin's finest examples of early 1900's architectural style. The beachfront resort has been faithfully restored to its former glory by the family who once lived there. Guests staying at Baan Bayan can experience the glory of a bygone era in its colonial style structure, yet without sacrificing the modern day comforts and amenities. It has 21 rooms comprising of three suites, 10 sea view rooms and 16 rooms with views of the courtyard or tropical garden. 119 Petchkasem Road. Tel: 032 533 544

PUTAHRACSA HUA HIN



This stylish resort skillfully marries Mediterranean-influenced villa accommodation with the best contemporary Thai interior design flair to create a unique experience. Putahraksa is a secluded sanctuary with 36 SilkSand rooms bordering a magnificent swimming pool and mini beach. Interiors emphasize the 'sleek and chic' approach to modern design. The Oceanbed Villas are truly exceptional, providing some of the highest quality accommodation and service in Hua Hin. The resort features a day spa, and superb dining opportunities at Nahb Talay and Oceanside. 22/65 Nahb Kaehat Road. Tel: 032 531 470

ALILA CHA-AM



The most recent brand name to move in the area, Alila has a reputation for creating chic design-led environments. Strong visual elements and contemporary chic are meant to impress. Alila Cha-Am features 72 rooms and seven Pool Villas. Room types include Deluxe, and Deluxe Terrace. Décor, like the exterior of the resort is minimalist in style. The spacious rooms have plain concrete walls. There is a strong emphasis on the hi-tech. All rooms include WiFi, Apple TV with a music and film collection, and ambient lighting. 115 Moo 7, Tambol Bangkiao, Cha-Am. Tel: 032 709 555

HILTON HUA HIN RESORT & SPA



This imposing resort in the centre of Hua Hin is regarded as one of the best family hotels in the region. Accommodation features comfortable rooms and suites, providing guests with a living space that exhibits contemporary Thai design flair and good in-room amenities. There are also 11 Spa Suites available. The award-winning White Lotus on the 17th floor of the Hilton Hua Hin Resort & Spa offers sky-high dining at down to earth prices. 33 Naresdamri Road. Tel: 032 538 999

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT



Few hotels in the region can have undergone such a radical and welcome transformation as the recently rebranded Courtyard by Marriott Hua Hin at Cha Am Beach. This imposing beachfront resort has benefited from and extensive refurbishment and emerged as one of the most pleasant value-for-money properties along the coast. The resort features 243 ocean view rooms. A highlight of the resort is the Kid's World. MoMo is a chic alfresco setting is the perfect location for a romantic dinner for two or a relaxed get together with friends. 854/2 Burirom Road, Cha-am Petchburi, 76120 Tel: 032 70 8300

SHERATON HUA HIN RESORT & SPA



Sheraton brand in Hua Hin is a delightful low-rise resort comprising of 240 luxurious rooms and suites, 56 of which have direct access to a 200-metre lagoon-style swimming pool. Stylish and elegant, they provide a generous 49 square metres of light and airy living space. Facilities at the resort include five restaurants and bars, the highlight being InAsia, the resort's signature restaurant. Other options include Luna Lanai, a laidback beachfront bar. The Aspadeva offers an extensive menu of massage and body services. 1573 Petchkasem Road, Cha-Am. Tel: 032 708 080

SOFITEL CENTARA GRAND RESORT & VILLAS



Set within 13 hectares of landscaped gardens, the property dates back to 1923 and is one of Southeast Asia's most renowned hotels. The luxurious colonial-era beachfront resort features 207 beautifully appointed guestrooms and suites, each one offering comfort and convenience. The Pool Villas include four Deluxe Spa Villas with queen sized twin bed, lounging area, bathroom with rain shower, and oversized Jacuzzi bathtub. Refined dining is available at Sala Thai, Hagi, the Railway Restaurant, and Palm Terrace. Guests can unwind in the Elephant Bar or Satchmo Club. 1 Damernkasem Road, Hua Hin. Tel: 032 512 021-38

EVASON HUA HIN AND SIX SENSES SPA



This resort-spa is situated at the heart of 20 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens and faces the Gulf of Thailand. Pool villas and guest rooms are connected by a series of wooden walkways that meander between lush greenery. This is a retreat for those seeking time to relax and recharge. In The Restaurant guests can sip exotic cocktails, ice-cold beer or boutique wines while watching chefs cook and construct creative appetizers. The award-winning Earth Spa is one of the most visually striking in Thailand. 9/22 Moo 5 Paknampran Beach, Pranburi. Tel: 032 632 111

HYATT REGENCY HUA HIN



Located at the heart of over twelve acres of beautiful landscaped gardens and ponds, all trimmed by a 200-metre stretch of prime beachfront, the longest hotel beach in Hua Hin, this resort is a true paradise. Rooms provide five-star comforts including a large well appointed bathroom with tub and shower, a king size bed, contemporary décor and balcony or terrace. Dining is available at Figs Italian restaurant and the fabulously casual beachfront McFarland House. The stunning \$12 million Barai spa features 18 exotic treatment rooms and eight exclusive residential spa suites. 91 Hua Hin - Khao Takiap Road. Tel: 032 252 1234

ASARA VILLA & SUITE, HUA HIN



Situated on the outskirts of Hua Hin, Asara Villa & Suite is a delightful seafront property featuring expansive and luxurious accommodation. Villas and suites are laid out on either side of central lagoon. Throughout all rooms the décor is contemporary Thai. Drawn from a predominantly white palette, rooms are given warmth with bold imagery and carefully chosen furnishings and design accents. Accessed through a private entrance that leads into a walled garden the one and two-bedroom Pool Villas provide seclusion in an exotic tropical environment. Kampu by Choice is the property's signature restaurant. 53 Hua Hin Soi 5, Petchakaseam Road, Hua Hin Tel: 032 547555

AKA RESORT HUA HIN

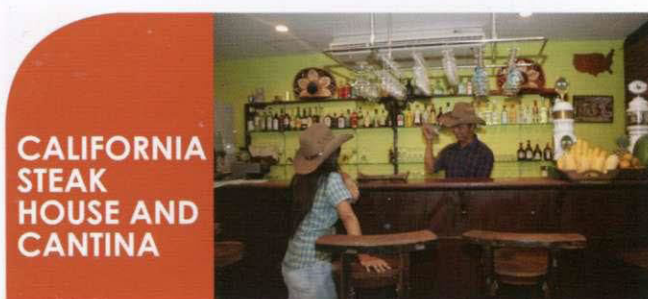


The Aka Resort skillfully combines contemporary style and understated natural beauty with luxury to create a sophisticated and relaxing environment. A member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World, each deluxe villa is accessed via a private entrance. The 160-square-metre one-bedroom Deluxe Pool Villa has a private infinity-edge swimming pool, sun deck with Sala pavilion and a garden courtyard with open-air sunken bath and garden shower enclosure. Also recently opened and just a short drive away is Aka Resort Gutti. This option offers the same high quality but further exclusivity. Here there are also stunning views from each villa's own infinity swimming pool. 152 Moo 7, Baan Nhong Hiang, Hin Lek Fai. Tel: 032 618 900



MA LONG DU

The intriguingly named Ma Long Du, literally 'come and see', is located close to the entranceway of the Baan Issara Resort Condominium in Soi 102. The restaurant is a modern looking eatery serving up a welcome taste of tradition. The highlight of the menu is the beef green curry with roti; the traditional way to eat this delicious meal. All dishes are served with complimentary herbal drinks. Rich desserts such as Thai adaptations of pound cake and jam roll finish of the meal. Ma Long Du is open from 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. Closed Wednesday.
Baan Issara, Soi 102, Prachuap Khirikhan 77110 Tel: 032-526511, 081-5507234



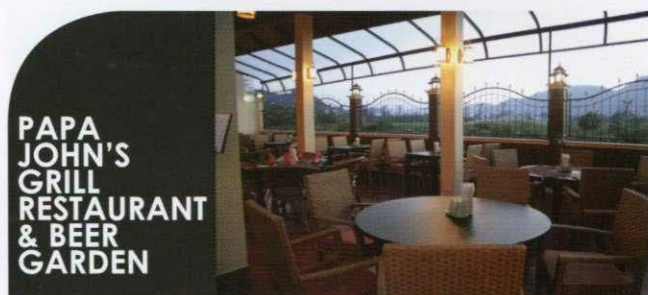
CALIFORNIA STEAK HOUSE AND CANTINA

A homely restaurant that delivers delicious food and warm friendly service, California Cantina serves Mexican and West Coast American-style food. It's an ideal hangout for a relaxing evening in the company of friends or family, sharing an array of tasty dishes and sipping the excellent margaritas. Notable dishes on the extensive menu include grilled chicken quesadillas, nachos grande, and St. Louis rack of barbecued ribs. California Cantina is a child-friendly restaurant with a selection of dishes for youngsters. Open from 7 a.m. 'til late.
174/1 Naresdamri Road (opposite the main entrance to the Soittel). Tel: 032 53 3599



CHOM TALAY

This delightful beachfront restaurant is a great spot for al-fresco dining. Pushed up against the water's edge it has an easy going charm, good food and drink. The menu features a wide selection of delicious seafood dishes. Of note is the stir fried mud crab with X.O. sauce. A piquant tom yam with fresh prawns, pineapple and the flesh of young coconut offers an interesting variation on a classic dish. Open from 11.00 a.m. until 22.00 p.m.
Phetkasem Road, Hia Hin, (next to the airport).
Tel: 032 547 253-4



PAPA JOHN'S GRILL RESTAURANT & BEER GARDEN

In business for over 13 years, this popular diner has established a large and loyal clientele of locals and returning holidaymakers. The secret to the restaurant's success is proprietor Bernd Grabow's welcoming nature and an extensive menu of good honest well cooked food. Papa John's is a spacious open-sided restaurant with a bar area ideal for pre-dinner drinks while you survey the excellent selection of dishes on the menu. Try the fillet, T-bone or rib-eye, each very reasonably priced. The ideal venue for European comfort food and a drink with friends. 1/54 Soi Moobaan Khao Takiab, Nong Kae, Hua Hin Tel: 032 514 295



MAMMA MIA

Open for over ten years, Mamma Mia's reputation as one of the best Italian restaurants in town is well-deserved. A wide selection of classic dishes made with the finest local and imported ingredients make it a showcase for genuine Italian home style cooking. The menu includes a wide selection of salads, soups and antipasti, including all the classics. Beautifully cooked fresh pasta dishes, and Claudio's ever-popular pizzas pulled from a wood-fired oven are highly recommended. Voted as one of the best 150 restaurants in Thailand three years running.
19 Damnoenkasem Road. Tel: 032 512 250



LA PAILLOTTE

This charming French restaurant is the ideal place to enjoy an evening of fine food in relaxed surroundings. The fresh and colourful décor brings to mind citrus-scented Mediterranean evenings, as do the excellent range of aperitifs, wines, beers and digestifs. Although the culinary roots of La Paillote's cuisine are classically French, the kitchen team enhances a rich culinary tradition with contemporary touches. A la carte menu and nine set menus available. Open daily from 11:00 a.m. until late.
174/1 Naresdamri Road, 77110
Tel: 032 521025

INAZIA

InAzia is the signature restaurant of the Sheraton Hua Hin Resort & Spa. This stylish restaurant invites diners to embark on a journey across the rich and varied culinary landscape of Asia. Diners can sample gourmet dishes from Thailand, Japan, Vietnam, China, Malaysia and India; all faithful to authentic flavours yet presented with modern flair and creativity. Dishes are complemented by an excellent list of wines of the world, and exotic cocktails. InAzia is located on the first floor of the resort. Dinner is served from 6.30 p.m. until 11 p.m. Sheraton Hua Hin Resort & Spa, 1573 Petchkasem Road, Cha Am Tel: 032 708 000

McFARLAND HOUSE

Set within the secluded compound of the much-lauded Barai at the Hyatt Regency Hua Hin, McFarland House provides enthusiastic epicures with a delightful evening of casual dining. Seated under a historic traditional stilted teak house, guests can recline in comfort and enjoy a sea view framed by palms and mature trees. Peaceful and scenic, there are few finer places to sit while savouring fine wine and contemplating a well conceived menu of snacks, light bites and desserts. McFarland House is an excellent choice for Sunday lunch. Hyatt Regency Hua Hin, 91 Hua Hin-Khao Takiap Road. Tel: 03251 1234

WHITE LOTUS

The award-winning White Lotus on the 17th floor of the Hilton Hua Hin Resort & Spa offers sky-high dining at down to earth prices. Chef Thitiwut Pakamataput cooks up delicious Cantonese and Szechuan cuisine. A highlight of the menu is the braised Australian beef with seasonal vegetables in a black pepper sauce. A good wine list and advice on pairing with Chinese cuisine is available from the sommelier. At weekends and public holidays White Lotus serves an authentic Dim Sum lunch.

33 Naresdamri Road. Tel: 032-53 8999

CIAO

For lovers of Italian cuisine, Ciao at the Hua Hin Marriott Resort & Spa is a blessing. The charming beachfront restaurant possesses a style and ambience that few resorts can claim to have achieved. A concise one-page menu offers a carefully considered selection of dishes. The antipasti selection is highly recommended. The platter of Italian temptations is the ideal accompaniment for the fine wines from Ciao's excellent cellar. The restaurant serves delicious appetizers, soups, salads, pasta, thin crust pizzas, main meat and fish dishes, irresistible desserts. Hua Hin Marriott Resort & Spa, 107/1 Phetkasem Beach Road. Tel: 032 511 881

HAGI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

This stylish Japanese restaurant established by the Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas possesses an air of sophistication and understated beauty. Diners can enjoy an excellent selection of contemporary and traditional Japanese dishes, each one beautifully executed and presented with artistic flair. The eclectic menu features a sushi, sashimi, noodles, and much more. A 16-seat teppanyaki kitchen turns cooking into theatre, creating a dramatic dining experience. The restaurant has also started to run weekly cooking classes. Open from 3:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Damnernkasem Road intersection. Tel: 032 512 021-38

BAAN THALIA

This exceptional restaurant at the Anantara Resort Hua Hin is perfect for a memorable night's dining. Baan Thalia serves excellent Italian cuisine complimented by a selection of international wines. Diners can relax in the air-conditioned comfort of the stylish restaurant and select tempting culinary delights from the extensive menu. A highlight of the culinary week at Baan Thalia is the Sunday evening grazing menu. The whole experience is simply divine and must rank as one of the most satisfying evenings of dining available in Hua Hin. Anantara Resort Hua Hin, 43/1 Phetkasem Beach Road. Reservations tel: 024 770 800



Softel pool villa



Sheraton Hua Hin Resort & Spa -
Luna Lanai Beach Bar



Food Shot from the marriott Hua Hin

Accommodation

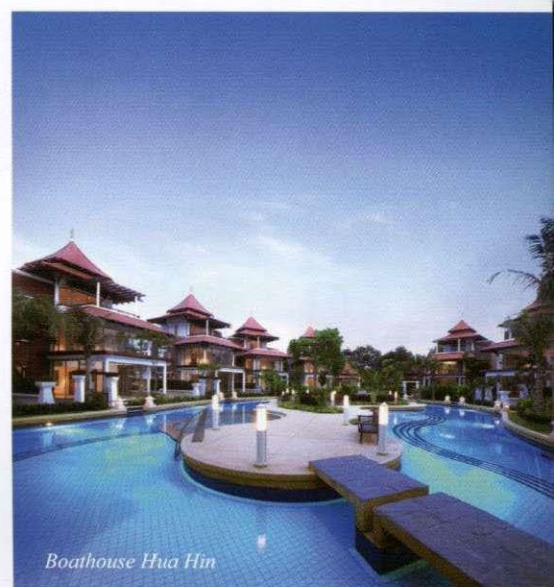
AKA Resort	Tel. 032 618 900
Araya Residence	Tel. 032 531 130-1
Alla Hotel Cha Am	Tel. 032 709 555
Aleenta Resort Pranburi	Tel. 032 618 333
Anantara Resort	Tel. 02 477 0800
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Baan Rajdamnern	Tel. 032 533 605-7
Baan Talay Chine Boutique Resort	Tel. 032 514 285
Baan Talay Dao	Tel. 032 536 024-30
Casa del Mare	Tel. 032 519 061-6
Chivasom Health Resort	Tel. 032 536 536-48
Chom View Hotel	Tel. 032 513 305-7
City Beach Resort	Tel. 032 512 870-5
Dhevan Dara Resort & Spa	Tel. 032 576 304/5
Dolphin Bay Resort	Tel. 032 559 333
Dusit Thani Hua Hin	Tel. 032 442 100
Evason Hua Hin Resort	Tel. 032 632 111
Evason Hideaway	Tel. 032 618 200
Fresh Inn Hotel	Tel. 032 511 389
Grand Pacific Sovereign Resort	Tel. 032 709 899
Hilton Hua Hin Resort & Spa	Tel. 032 538 999
Hin Nam Sai Suay	Tel. 032 522 767-8
Holiday Inn Regent Beach Cha-Am	Tel. 032 451 240-9
Hua Hin Golf Villa	Tel. 032 530 119
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Hua Hin Hillside Resort	Tel. 032 827 680-2
Hyatt Regency Hua Hin	Tel. 032 521 234
Kaban Tamor	Tel. 032 521 011-3
Marriott Resort & Spa	Tel. 02 618 200
Napalai Resort & Spa	Tel. 032 527 555
Nern Chalet Hotel	Tel. 032 513 528
Putahrasa Resort	Tel. 032 531 470
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Sheraton Hua Hin Resort & Spa	Tel. 032 708 000
Smor Spa Village & Resort	Tel. 032 536 800
Softel Central Hua Hin	Tel. 032 512 021-38
Springfield Beach Resort	Tel. 032 451 181-5
Springfield Royal Country Club	Tel. 032 593 223
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Takiab Beach Resort	Tel. 032 512 639
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Yaiya Resort	Tel. 032 406 111

Pubs & Restaurants

4K Restaurant at X2 Kui Buri	Tel. 032 601 412
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All in Hua Hin	Tel. 032 530 067
All Seasons	Tel. 032 512 979
Baan Talay Dao restaurant	Tel. 032 536 024-30
Billy's Bar	Tel. 032 532 093
Bosco The Restaurant	Tel. 032 709 222
Brasserie De Paris	Tel. 032 520 874
Butterfly Rock	Tel. 087 028 6286
California Steak House and Cantina	Tel. 032 533 599
Chinawhite	Tel. 032 514 177
Chomtalay beach restaurant	Tel. 032 547 253-4
Chub Cheeva Restaurant	Tel. 032 513 380
CoCo 51	Tel. 032 515 597
Corner 84	Tel. 032 515 238
Crawfords Irish Bar Cha-Am	Tel. 032 471 774
Dick's Office Blues & Jazz	Tel. 09 021 1057
Gelato Italiano	Tel. 06 761 1198
Go-Ti	Tel. 032 516 516
Great American Rib	Tel. 032 521 255
Hagi Japanese Restaurant	Tel. 032 512 021
Heidi's Garden Restaurant	Tel. 032 532 367
Hua Hin Brewing Company	Tel. 032 538 999
La Grappa	Tel. 032 516 510
La Villa	Tel. 032 513 435
Lamer	Tel. 032 536 205
Let's Sea	Tel. 032 536 022
Lolitas	Tel. 032 531 405
Mamma Mia	Tel. 032 512 250
Ma Long Du	Tel. 032 526 511
Mini Farm Kitchen	Tel. 032 516 383
Monsoon Bar	Tel. 032 531 062
O' Neills Irish Pub & Restaurant	Tel. 032 511 517
Oyster Bar	Tel. 032 511 624
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Payu Bistrot	Tel. 032 522 777
Pasta Factory	Tel. 087 164 6394
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Rua Rintarn Restaurant	Tel. 032 516 277
Ryg's French Restaurant	Tel. 032 521 025
Sasi	Tel. 032 512 488
Silom Pavilion	Tel. 032 521 250-1
Subway	Tel. 032 521 248
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The Duke's Restaurant	Tel. 032 515 787
The Museum Coffee & Tea Corner	Tel. 032 512 021
Thanachat	Tel. 032 531 533-4
Veranda Grill	Tel. 032 533 678
Youyen	Tel. 032 531 191



Black Mountain Golf Club



Boathouse Hua Hin

Golf Courses

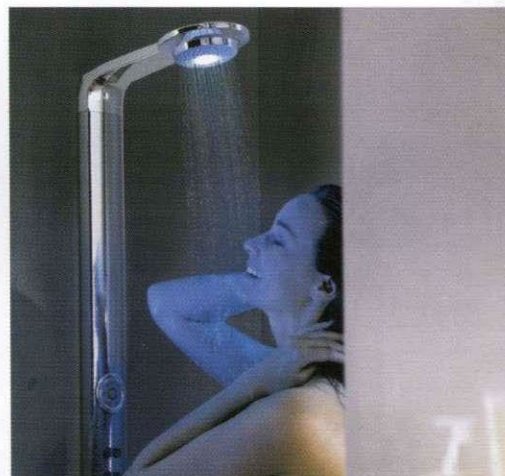
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Black Mountain Golf Club	Tel. 032 646 400
Imperial Lake View	Tel. 032 456 233-9
Kang Krachan Golf Resort & Country Club	Tel. 032 422 146
Majestic Creek	Tel. 081 942 3619
Milford Country Club	Tel. 032 572 439
Palm Hills	Tel. 032 520 800-2
Royal Hua Hin	Tel. 032 512 475
Sawang Resort & Golf Club	Tel. 032 619 168-70
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Golf Bookings and Transfer:	
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Property Projects

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Baan Talay Samran	Tel. 032 536 949
Emerald Hill	Tel. 032 532 899
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Hua Hin Country Club	Tel. 032 532 382
Hua Hin Laguna	Tel. 032 533 604
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Hua Hin Sea View Villa	Tel. 032 547 391
Hua Hin Sunset Village	Tel. 087 006 4508
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La Vallee	Tel. 032 534 956-7
Leelawadee	Tel. 032 530 0657
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Manor Park	Tel. 032 536 460
Manora Village II	Tel. 032 572140
Natural Hill	Tel. 032 511 831, 032 511 941
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Prime Nature Villa	Tel. 02 254 1035-8
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Tropical Sea View	Tel. 032 530 711
Thai Living	Tel. 087 082 3058
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How Does Marriage with a Thai Affect Your Assets in Thailand?

Are you, a foreign national, planning to marry a person who has grown up in Thailand and is a Thai citizen? If so, you should have some information about marriage customs in Thailand, as well as about Thai laws governing matrimonial property and assets. The more familiar you are with these customs and legalities ahead of time, the more smoothly your wedding day will go, and the more comfortable you will be with the arrangements that need to be made regarding your assets.

Pre-wedding customs of betrothal

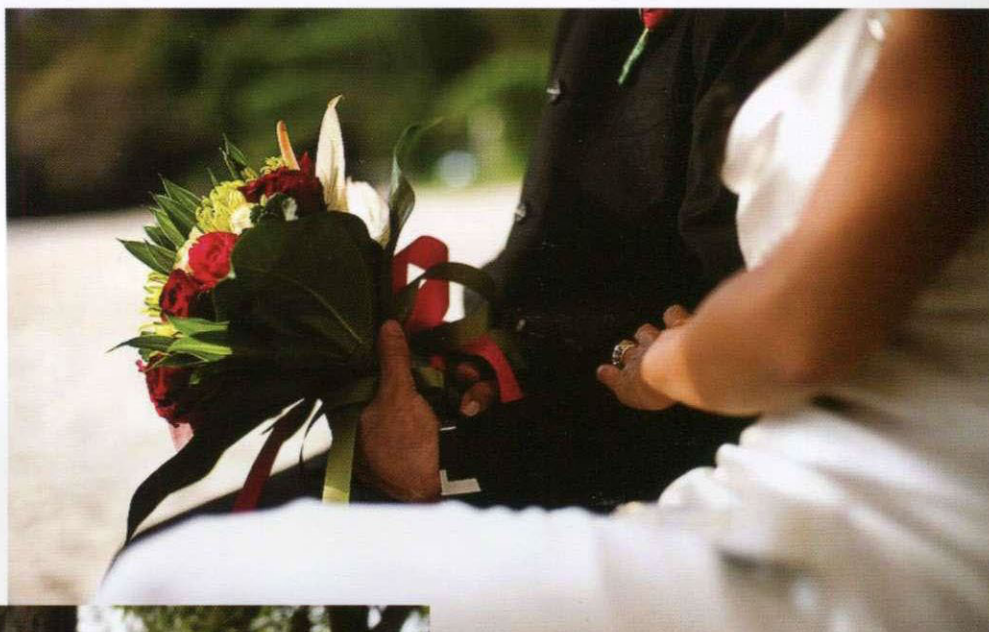
You'll find that most Thais want a wedding that follows the general traditions of the country. You begin, of course, with a proposal of marriage. While you and your beloved may have decided without too much fuss to marry each other, it is nevertheless expected that the man will ask permission from the parents of the bride. Once they grant permission for their daughter to marry, a traditional engagement or betrothal ceremony is arranged.

This ceremony, called *thong mun*, is attended by both sets of parents, as well as relatives and close friends on both sides. Instead of giving a diamond ring to his fiancée, as is common in Western countries, the prospective groom in Thailand is expected to give the bride's family a quantity of gold jewelry. Gold produced in Thailand is almost completely pure – usually 96%. The weight of gold is measured in baht; one baht of gold is equal to half a troy ounce, or 15.2 grams. Because the gift is for a couple, it is considered unlucky to give an odd number of baht. Therefore the minimum weight of the gift should be two baht of gold. *Thong mun* literally means 'engagement things' and these things signify that the man is sincere in his intentions toward the young woman. The elders of each family (the parents, and sometimes the grandparents) take this opportunity to discuss and come to an agreement on such matters as the appropriate amount of



the dowry, auspicious dates and location for the wedding ceremony, and so on.

The dowry, or *sinsod*, is generally given to the parents of the bride on the actual day of the wedding. Its amount is determined by the two sets of families, with the bride's family having the right to call off the marriage if the *sinsod* they require cannot be paid by the groom. Normally, the requested amount of the dowry depends largely on the wealth of the suitor and his standing in society. It may be worth noting that Thais usually consider all Caucasians to be wealthy. The other consideration that goes into deciding the appropriate amount of the dowry is the value of the bride – her beauty, education, virtuous characteristics, personality, and so forth. (In the case of a second marriage, the dowry is normally waived.) It's not uncommon these days



The traditional Thai wedding ceremony has many regional variations. Nevertheless, some elements are common to almost all Buddhist weddings in Thailand.

for the bride's family to return the dowry to the couple as a wedding gift.

The wedding ceremony

The traditional Thai wedding ceremony has many regional variations. Nevertheless, some elements are common to almost all Buddhist weddings in Thailand. In the morning, often at the home of the bride's parents, the wedding couple makes an offering to an odd number of monks (usually three, five, seven or nine), as the monks make their regular morning rounds seeking alms. The offering probably includes money and food, and is accompanied by many formal gestures of respect for the monks. The head monk may give the couple a blessing, or the couple may visit the temple to receive such a blessing.

Often there is a celebratory luncheon after this stage of the ceremonies, with

both families and some relatives and friends in attendance. Later, a "binding" ceremony is conducted, usually by an elder of some standing in the community. Knotted strings are tied around the wrists of the couple to symbolize their union. The elder pours water from a conch shell over the couple's joined hands, and makes a brief speech in which he provides helpful tips on marriage. In the evening, a large wedding banquet is held, usually at a hotel, for family and friends. In all, the wedding celebrations can take up to two days. Every section of the wedding ceremony is full of expressions of respect for the parents and other elders, especially for the bride's parents.

Legal requirements and registration of marriage

Before you can be married in Thailand, both you and your intended spouse must provide documents proving that you are both single and free to marry, in accordance with Thai laws. Should you have previously been legally married in your home country, you'll need to provide the original certificate of divorce or death of your former spouse. If you're a foreigner, you must submit an affidavit or statutory statement of non-attachment, notarized by the embassy of your home country in Bangkok. Some embassies, for example those of the United Kingdom and the United States, can give you an Affidavit or Statutory Form to complete, and they will notarize it for you after completion. Other embassies may require you to give notarized proof of your marital status from your home country. Your passport (or passports, if both of you are foreign nationals) will also be required. The declarations of single status document must be translated into Thai, and must then be attested by the Thailand Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



a sound financial structure for your marriage. It can not only protect the assets each of you brings to the marriage, but also assist you both in planning future investments. In a prenuptial agreement, you will:

clearly set out the terms for possession of your assets determine control of each spouse's property state how future earnings are to be treated decide how the assets will be divided, in case the marriage is dissolved at a later date

You may not want to think about such a possibility, but doing so before you marry can assure you that – whatever happens – you have done your financial planning

Once all your documentation is in place, you need to register your marriage at the local Amphur, or Civil Registry Office. Usually this legal registration takes place the day before or the day after the traditional Thai wedding ceremony described above. Your marriage certificate can be issued within a matter of hours, if all the documents are in order (and in Thai). As complex and formal as a traditional Buddhist wedding ceremony may be, it is nevertheless not recognized as a legal marriage in Thailand, nor is any other religious ceremony: it's the registration at the District Registry Office that makes your marriage legally binding. A marriage certificate issued in Thailand is recognized by all countries as legal.

Pros and cons of having a prenuptial agreement

Prenuptial agreements seem to have become more common in the last decade or so, although they remain somewhat controversial in Thailand. When you're making your wedding plans, it may seem insensitive to bring up the topic of a prenuptial agreement. You may feel that asking for such an impersonal document tends to depersonalize your entrance into matrimony, and in some way downplay the sacredness of your union. After all, a prenuptial agreement is a legal contract between you and your spouse-to-be. Each of you needs your own legal representation as you create the agreement, and each of you must openly and frankly disclose all your assets.

Taking all those feelings into account, it still must be said that a prenuptial agreement can be an excellent tool for helping you and your spouse build



together, looking at fair treatment for both parties, and making certain that your assets will go to the recipients you intend. A prenuptial agreement is a little like a Last Will and Testament, in that it gives you an opportunity to plan carefully, rationally, and unemotionally ahead of the event. Both documents ensure that your wishes for your assets will be carried out in the future.

Who needs a prenuptial agreement?

You should definitely give serious consideration to having a prenuptial agreement if either of you fall into one or more of these categories:

You own or have a significant equity in a business

You own significant assets, such as stocks, properties, unit trusts, pension or retirement funds, or other superannuation funds

You are expecting a potential inheritance

You have children from a previous marriage

Remember that a prenuptial agreement is bound by the contractual laws of the jurisdiction (country) of each of the parties to the agreement. It must be objective and fair, and must include all the basic elements of a contract. If your agreement fails to meet any of these criteria, and if at any point you and your spouse contest its contents in a court of law, the agreement may be rescinded.

Property ownership by foreigners in Thailand

As a foreigner planning to live in Thailand with a Thai spouse, you have doubtless already discovered that the kingdom has clear legislation preventing foreign nationals from owning freehold land. It's difficult to work around this law, although there are a few exceptions. While you, as a foreigner, can own a condominium dwelling, you own only the building and not the land upon which it stands. If you and your Thai spouse purchase property together, you will have to sign a declaration that all the money used in the purchase transaction belonged entirely to the Thai spouse. Additionally, you must agree in writing that you have no future rights to the property. This means that, if your marriage is ever dissolved by divorce, the whole property will go to the Thai spouse. You can however enter into some agreements i.e. lease agreement with your Thai spouse to protect your interests on the joint property. Consulting a reputable lawyer pertaining to this matter is advised.

Conclusion

Your smartest move before making any major changes in your life in Thailand is to consult a reputable attorney, to discuss how Thai law may affect these changes. Such changes include marriage, purchase of real estate, divorce, and making a Last Will and Testament for your Thai assets (as separate from your assets in your home country). A good law firm can suggest other alternative ways for foreigners to own property in Thailand, and can point out the best ways for you to protect your assets, even if you are married to a Thai spouse.

Siam Legal is Thailand's largest legal network with eight locations across the kingdom. You can visit any of our offices for a free consultation regarding property, legal or immigration matters. The new office location is at 57/1-2 Petchkasem Rd in Hua Hin starting on May 1. www.siam-legal.com

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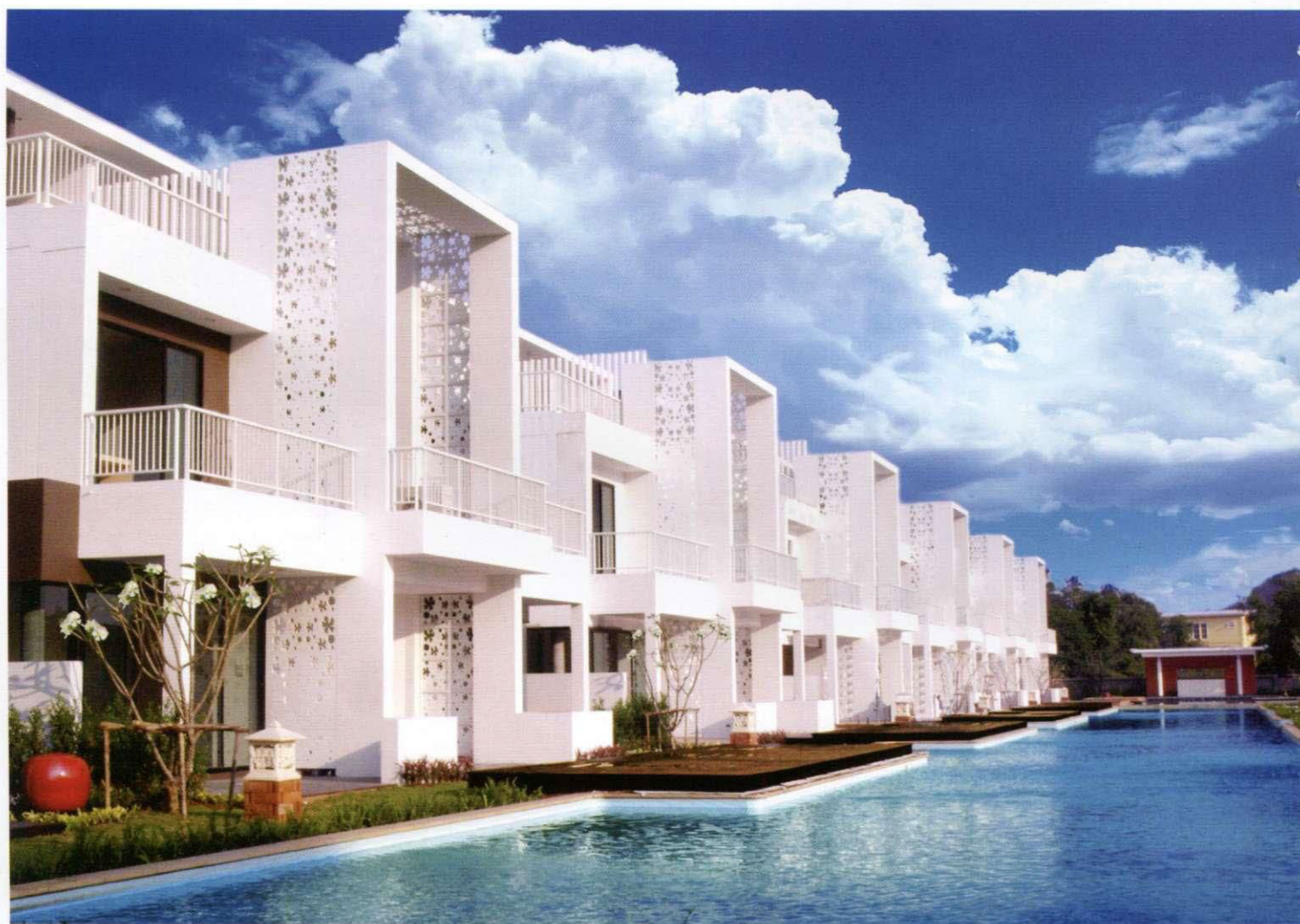
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Designed for Life – Franjipani Long Stay Resort

Hua Hin entrepreneur, Pramote Thanyakulsaja talks about his new and exciting project



Local businessman and property developer, Pramote Thanyakulsaja is passionate about Hua Hin. "It's my home town and I care about what happens here. I want to set new standards for developments so foreigners can buy a home with confidence," he says.

Having created the successful Tira boutique condominium project in the centre of Hua Hin, Khun Pramote used his experience and valuable insight for his latest venture, Franjipani Long Stay Resort.

Pramote bought the land for Franjipani over a decade ago when he realized that Hua Hin had huge potential as a resort destination. Over the last 18 months he has developed his own unique concept and the project is already proving popular with foreign buyers.

The resort-style development offers

leasehold units starting at 60 square metres, the largest studio units in Hua Hin. "Leasehold is the best option for a foreigner. If you buy freehold and after five years discover that there are defects with the construction, a common problem here in Thailand, you will have to bear the cost of repair. Under Thai law, however, a leasehold contract states that I am bound to maintain the property for the occupant," says Pramote.

Try before you buy

The forward-thinking entrepreneur's project also has another positive benefit for potential clients; he owns the land outright and construction has already been completed using his own funds. "Over the past few months Thailand's property market has experienced difficulties and sales dropped off at the end of last year but it has come back.



People still want to buy property in Hua Hin. However, people are more cautious and don't want to put money into anything they can't touch. Franjipani is complete and ready to move into now," asserts Pramote. In fact Pramote offers a 'try before you buy' scheme whereby interested buyers can rent units and enjoy the Franjipani experience before deciding if they want to buy. The project will include first class tenancy management that guarantees a minimum 5% return on investment. Currently, a special promotion allows prospective buyers to secure units with only a 35% deposit. The remaining 65% can be paid back over seven years. A

Buy Back Guarantee of 50% of deposit is also offered.

Franjipani Resort has been designed to meet every desire and expectation of a quality recreational home. Set within a serene and scenic environment, homeowners can enjoy relaxed and refined living just 200 metres from the beach. Units are arranged in seven buildings, each with nine homes. On offer are 60 square metre one-bedroom units to 160 square metre two-bedroom Duplex units. Facilities at this outstanding residential resort include a fitness room, sauna, 80-metre swimming pool with Jacuzzi and paddling pool, parking area and 24-hour security.

Attracted by the build quality, design and security, several clients have decided to buy more than one unit and take advantage of the great potential to earn a rental income. "Foreign buyers are usually only here for three or four months a year for relaxation. This raises an important issue of security for homeowners. A house located in the countryside is at risk of theft and there are also often problems with water supply. Our central location ensures better security and a constant supply of water," says Pramote.

In order to better serve his valued customers, Pramote has also established a company that employs staff with experience in five-star resorts in order to ensure highly quality service. "If you follow the ideas of others you will never be a leader," says Pramote. "I have created my own concept that provides buyers with an enviable lifestyle at an affordable price."



Franjipani - Hua Hin's Long Stay Resort,
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Nongkhae
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Franjipani is a residential resort which offers stylish rooms starting from 60-160 square metres located in a natural and private location with an extensive range of family recreation.

Franjipani provides guests with full resort services and a wide range of facilities for business, leisure and family, ensuring that your stay is relaxed and memorable.

Located @ the end of Takiab Hill, a few minutes to Takiab beach the longest beach in Hua Hin. The resort offers the perfect location for a private holiday and the friendly resort team will make this feel like your 2nd home.

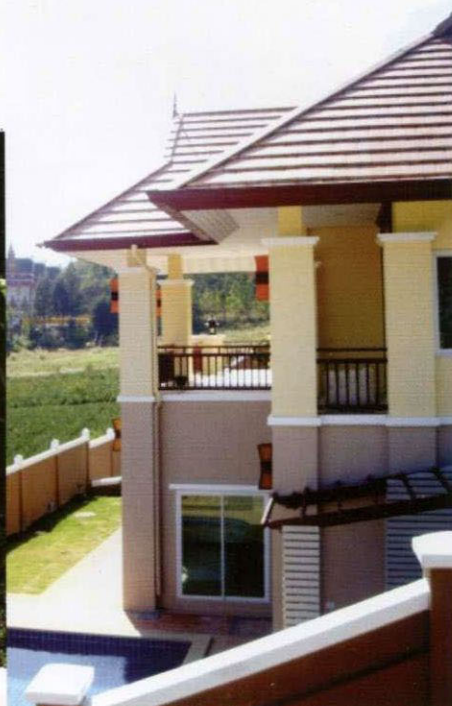


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www.franjipanihuahin.com

Introducing Hua Hin Emerald Heights



Hua Hin Emerald Heights represents exceptional value and an excellent investment opportunity. Located just 12 kilometres from the heart of Hua Hin, the project occupies an expansive nine rai plot of elevated land. The well-built homes enjoy some of the best views in the area, cooling coastal breezes and a lush green landscape. This superb parcel of land is the site for 26 villas. Three styles are available, each with a private pool, garden and of course, sweeping views of Hua Hin.

Construction of the villas is being carried out by an experienced and reputable contractor. The stylish homes are beautifully designed. The three bedroom houses feature quality fully fitted European kitchen comes as standard, along with a pool and spa, a hot water system, air conditioning, hi-speed internet, and landscaped gardens. Plot sizes are from 416 to 652 square metres land area and from 148 to 250 square metre living area.

As many homeowners in Hua Hin are not resident throughout the year, an important factor when considering purchasing a house in Hua Hin is security. Hua Hin Emerald Heights is a well-managed estate with 24-hour security and on-site services. The plot also has its own water supply and good drainage. Underground electricity cables means that there are no unsightly wires to obscure the view toward the sea or the mountain backdrop.

The quiet but convenient location of these contemporary homes is a



major selling point for Emerald Heights. Few estates can boast such wonderful mountain and sea views so close to town. Homeowners will be just five minutes from the beach and a 15-minute drive to town.

Hua Hin Emerald Heights is located on Phetchkasem Road, 500 metres from Soi 156. Construction is underway and a house is currently available for viewing. A sales office is also on site.

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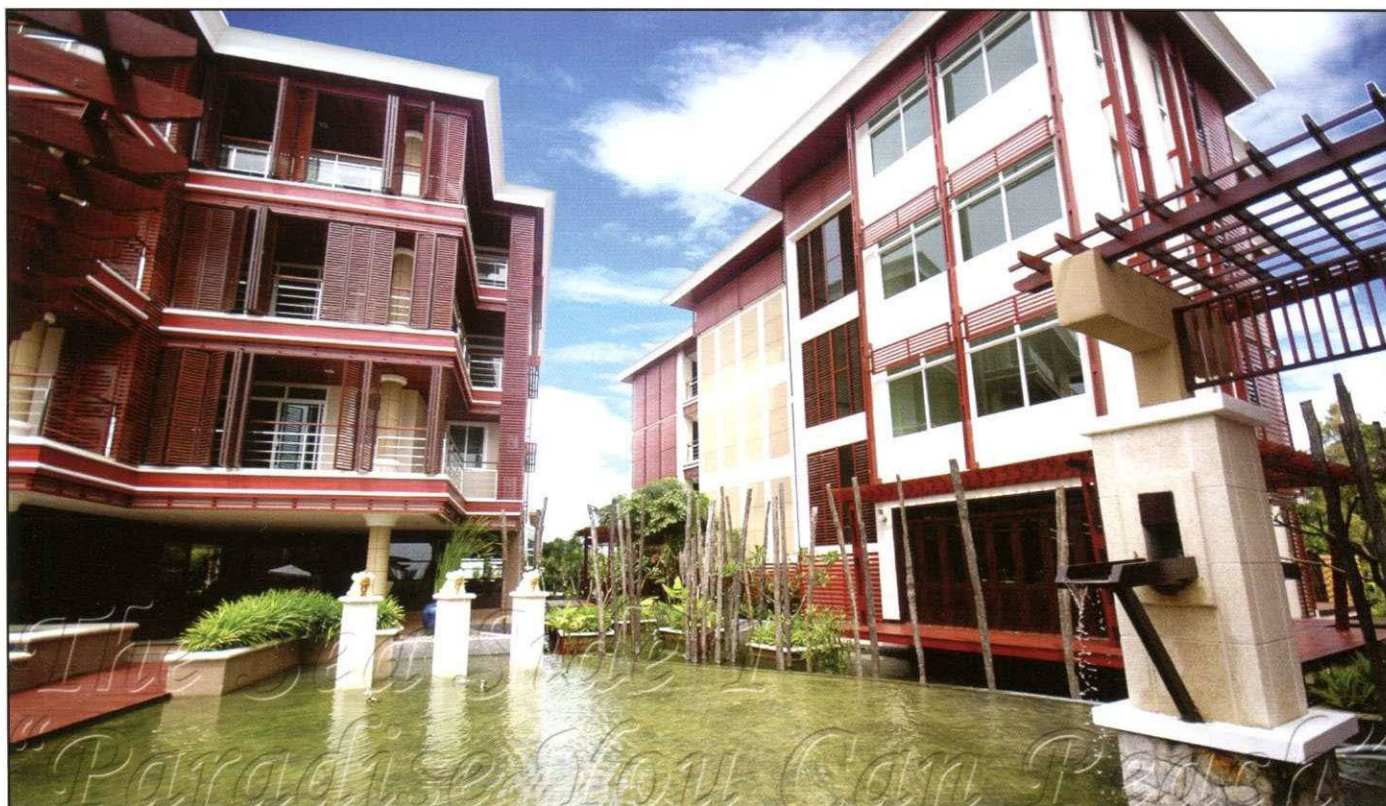


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